

THE JOURNAL OF THE KEW GUILD



Founded in 1893

The Association of members of the Kew staff past and present

Events of 2004

Published in 2005

Volume 14 Number 109

Registered charity No. 306064

Hon. Editor: Jennifer Sophie Day
Telephone: (01794) 388614 Email: kewguleditor@hotmail.com
Printed by Rayment Printers Ltd., 5 Horsham Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 2JN.
Telephone: (01306) 886198 Fax: (01306) 742148
Email: office@raymentprinters.f9.co.uk

**Royal Botanic Gardens
Kew**

CONTENTS

	Page
Trustees and Committee	258
Editorial	259
Colin Hindmarch, President	260
Sandy Atkins, Vice-President 2003-2004	264
New Committee Members	264
Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild	265
School of Horticulture, Kew Diploma Prize Day Speech 2004	269
Presentation of Kew Diplomas and Prizes 2004 (Course 39)	272
Kew Guild Events of 2004	278
Thenford House: A Visit to the Hesseltines	280
Report of the Buckingham Palace Garden Party – 6th July 2004	281
Kew Guild Award Scheme Report 2004	284
The Floral Diversity of Oaxaca Southern Mexico	285
Propagation Techniques: Botswana	286
Green Waste Utilization and Management	288
Begonias and a Blazer in the Philippines	289
2004: A Report on Kew's Year	291
2004: A Report on Wakehurst's Year	294
Wakehurst Place Weather 2004	300
Stan Hitt Honoured with M.B.E.	301
Dramatic Progress at Boarde Hill	301
Alan Titchmarsh – Kew Guild Kew Mutual Lecture	303
The Phenology Database at Kew	305
From our Foreign Correspondents	308
Life and Gardening on the Côte D'Azur	308
Life in the Tropics	309
News from Canada: Our Man in Vancouver	310
William Hugh Gower (1835-1894): Linking the Old with the New	312
Blank Canvas Versus Established Collection	314
A Brief History of The Kew Guild	315
The Kew Guild Now and Then: An Overview	318
Yorkshire Connections	323
New Membership Certificate	325
News of Kewites at Home and Abroad	327
Obituaries	345
Accounts	348
Members Address List	350
List of RBG Staff and Student Members of the Kew Guild	359

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2004-2005

Advisors:

Professor E. A. Bell, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., C.Chem., F.R.C.S., F.L.S.
 Professor Sir Ghillean T. Prance, F.R.S., M.A., D.Phil., Fil.Dr., F.L.S.
 M. J. S. Sands, B.Sc., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., F.L.S., F.R.G.S.
 J. B. E. Simmons, O.B.E., M.Hort.(RHS), F.I.Hort., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., V.M.H.

Officers:

President: Dr. Colin Hindmarch, Ph.D., Dip. L.D.(Newcastle), Dip. Hort. Kew,
 Euro. Pro.Biol., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., F.I. Hort.

President Elect: Robert Hebb

Vice-President: Mrs. S. Atkins

Past-President: Professor David F. Cutler, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.I.C., F.L.S.

Honorary Secretary: T. Risley

Communications Secretary: Ms S. Arnold

Honorary Treasurer: Ms J. Alsop

Honorary Membership Secretary: S. Henchie

Honorary Editor: Mrs. J. Day

Events Officer: Ms P. Holt

Committee Members:

Retire 2005

Alex George Western Australia
 Richard Ward Kew
 John Woodhams Kingston

Retire 2006

Peter Gasson Kew
 Anthony Ross London
 Michael Wilkinson Twickenham

Retire 2007

Roy Foster Canada
 Matthew Biggs Flamstead
 Graham Burgess Whitchurch
 Mike Lycett Westcliffe on Sea

Ex Officio Member: I. Leese

Award Scheme Chair: A. Hart

Student Committee Representatives: Ms T. Stickler, Ms I. Noack, Ms K. Herian

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew

THE KEW GUILD

Patron: Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra

The Kew Guild Committee 2004-2005

Advisors:

Professor E. A. Bell, B.Sc., M.A., Ph.D., C.Chem., F.R.C.S., F.L.S.
 Professor Sir Ghillean T. Prance, F.R.S., M.A., D.Phil., Fil.Dr., F.L.S.
 M. J. S. Sands, B.Sc., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., F.L.S., F.R.G.S.
 J. B. E. Simmons, O.B.E., M.Hort.(RHS), F.I.Hort., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., V.M.H.

Officers:

President: Dr. Colin Hindmarch, Ph.D., Dip. L.D.(Newcastle), Dip. Hort. Kew,
 Euro. Pro.Biol., C.Biol., F.I.Biol., F.I. Hort.

President Elect: Robert Hebb

Vice-President: Mrs. S. Atkins

Past-President: Professor David F. Cutler, B.Sc., Ph.D., D.I.C., F.L.S.

Honorary Secretary: T. Risley

Communications Secretary: Ms S. Arnold

Honorary Treasurer: Ms J. Alsop

Honorary Membership Secretary: S. Henchie

Honorary Editor: Mrs. J. Day

Events Officer: Ms P. Holt

Committee Members:

Retire 2005

Alex George	Western Australia
Richard Ward	Kew
John Woodhams	Kingston

Retire 2006

Peter Gasson	Kew
Anthony Ross	London
Michael Wilkinson	Twickenham

Retire 2007

Roy Foster	Canada
Matthew Biggs	Flamstead
Graham Burgess	Whitchurch
Mike Lycett	Westcliffe on Sea

Ex Officio Member: I. Leese

Award Scheme Chair: A. Hart

Student Committee Representatives: Ms T. Stickler, Ms I. Noack, Ms K. Herian

EDITORIAL

It is with a great deal of pride that I survey the electronic version of this year's *Journal*. The result of many hours of discussion by the Committee as a whole and the newly created Editorial Board, the full-colour edition should be a showstopper . . . I hope you think so. Thank you to all the people who got in touch over the year to let me know in all sorts of ways how much they appreciate the *Journal*. It would be impossible to produce without support. And it is with great sadness that I announce the retirement of one major supporter, *News of Kewites* compiler John Woodhams. For many of you, John is your point of contact, and brings to the *Journal* your varied exploits and adventures, recording the lives of Kewites across the globe in technicoloured glory. While I am sure (I hope) we will find an able replacement as compiler, John's encyclopaedic knowledge of Kewites, ably backed by Joan, will be irreplaceable. For those wishing to contribute to *NoK*, please get in touch with me and I will introduce you to the replacement.

There are a host of new features in this issue of the *Journal*, and as always we are dependant on our membership to make them regular features. The most obvious is our conversion to FULL COLOUR, an advance we are thrilled to be providing and hoping it enhances your reading experience. *From Our Foreign Correspondents* was inspired by the passing of the legendary Alistair Cooke, and by the British government's insistence on defining me as an alien despite nine years of residence and a British spouse. *NoK* does a great job of keeping us up to date with Kewites around the globe, but what about horticulture in all its glorious and varied forms? By asking Kewites who have left the shores of this lovely island to report on the health of horticulture on their patch, we will encourage the exchange of information and ideas that has been the hallmark of the Guild since its inception. *Then and Now* will delve into our past, reminding us of the stellar heritage of which we are a part. And this issue marks the return of the much-loved contact list . . . use it well and wisely.

The Editorial Board is already collecting contributions and contributors for next year's *Journal* and squirreling them away in advance of the January 15th (hand-written) and February 15th (word processed AND in electronic format – floppy, email, cd rom) deadlines. We will be on the warpath in pursuit of fantastic articles, cutting edge projects, and argument in all its horticultural forms. Please get in touch if you have something to say or know someone who does.

Happy Reading

Jennifer Day

Honorary Editor: editor@hotmail.com or jennifer@dirconsultancy.co.uk
1 Redhill, Winchester Road, King's Somborne, Hants. SO20 6PF
Tel: 01794 388 614

*Cover design by Anthony Ross (A student at Kew 1971-1974) A contemporary painting of **Laelia anceps**, which is a native orchid of Mexico introduced into Britain in 1893. Anthony plans to visit Mexico next year to discover which **Laelia** species are still growing in the forests areas of Mexico.*

EDITORIAL

It is with a great deal of pride that I survey the electronic version of this year's *Journal*. The result of many hours of discussion by the Committee as a whole and the newly created Editorial Board, the full-colour edition should be a showstopper . . . I hope you think so. Thank you to all the people who got in touch over the year to let me know in all sorts of ways how much they appreciate the *Journal*. It would be impossible to produce without support. And it is with great sadness that I announce the retirement of one major supporter, *News of Kewites* compiler John Woodhams. For many of you, John is your point of contact, and brings to the *Journal* your varied exploits and adventures, recording the lives of Kewites across the globe in technicoloured glory. While I am sure (I hope) we will find an able replacement as compiler, John's encyclopaedic knowledge of Kewites, ably backed by Joan, will be irreplaceable. For those wishing to contribute to *NoK*, please get in touch with me and I will introduce you to the replacement.

There are a host of new features in this issue of the *Journal*, and as always we are dependant on our membership to make them regular features. The most obvious is our conversion to FULL COLOUR, an advance we are thrilled to be providing and hoping it enhances your reading experience. *From Our Foreign Correspondents* was inspired by the passing of the legendary Alistair Cooke, and by the British government's insistence on defining me as an alien despite nine years of residence and a British spouse. *NoK* does a great job of keeping us up to date with Kewites around the globe, but what about horticulture in all its glorious and varied forms? By asking Kewites who have left the shores of this lovely island to report on the health of horticulture on their patch, we will encourage the exchange of information and ideas that has been the hallmark of the Guild since its inception. *Then and Now* will delve into our past, reminding us of the stellar heritage of which we are a part. And this issue marks the return of the much-loved contact list . . . use it well and wisely.

The Editorial Board is already collecting contributions and contributors for next year's *Journal* and squirreling them away in advance of the January 15th (hand-written) and February 15th (word processed AND in electronic format – floppy, email, cd rom) deadlines. We will be on the warpath in pursuit of fantastic articles, cutting edge projects, and argument in all its horticultural forms. Please get in touch if you have something to say or know someone who does.

Happy Reading

Jennifer Day

Honorary Editor: editor@hotmail.com or jennifer@dirconsultancy.co.uk
 1 Redhill, Winchester Road, King's Somborne, Hants. SO20 6PF
 Tel: 01794 388 614

*Cover design by Anthony Ross (A student at Kew 1971-1974) A contemporary painting of **Laelia anceps**, which is a native orchid of Mexico introduced into Britain in 1893. Anthony plans to visit Mexico next year to discover which **Laelia** species are still growing in the forests areas of Mexico.*

**DR. COLIN HINDMARCH, Ph.D, Dip. L.D.(Newcastle),
Dip. Hort.(Kew), Euro Pro Biol., C.Biol., F.I.Biol, F.I.Hort**
President 2004/2005



Photograph: David Hindmarch

**DR. COLIN HINDMARCH, Ph.D, Dip. L.D.(Newcastle),
Dip. Hort.(Kew), Euro Pro Biol., C.Biol., F.I.Biol, F.I.Hort**
President 2004/2005



Photograph: David Hindmarch

Colin was born in Sunderland (UK) in 1945 and raised with three younger brothers in Seaham on the Durham coast. Seaham was a grimy, oppressive mess of pits and housing, but it was fringed by a lively, changeable sea, and quickly gave way to an uplifting coastal landscape of crumbling cliffs, windswept farms and deep wooded denes, filled with bluebells and wild garlic.

The pits were the main employer, provided a reasonable living, but diminished lives, reducing some men, including his father, to gasping, physically marred wrecks by the time they were 50. They also despoiled the town and degraded its surroundings.

Everything had a sooty bloom, coal shards crunched underfoot, and pit waste littered the shore. Some beaches were smothered in sea washed waste, and strewn with defunct conveyor belts and spent pit props. These surreal places were ghastly expressions of the mining industry, but they fascinated children and stirred the imagination. Colin's favourite was hemmed in by flower-rich limestone cliffs crowded with *orchids*, and reached by way of a narrow ledge dubbed the 'Nanny Goat's Path'. The 'Blast', as it was called, was a magical place with an endless supply of strange carboniferous fossils, wood enough for extravagant bonfires, and expanses of lustrous, black 'sand' peppered with fools gold.

Colin's early 'schooling' had numerous gaps and diversions, which included lengthy stays at Seahouses in Northumberland, either playing among the dunes or doing farm-related things. His time at Seaham Secondary Modern School was more certain. It was also an encouraging experience, with little in the way of conventional 'academic' pressure. Teachers were generally helpful, promoted a spirit of practical inquiry, and appeared free to explore the curriculum using a wide range of themes. These included gardening, astronomy, geology and, in recognition of local opportunities, a thorough course on mining.

Colin left school in 1960, avoided a career in the 'pits', had a short spell as trainee ironmonger, and became an apprentice gardener with the Sunderland Hospital Management Committee (1961). The group of thirteen-or-so hospitals had skilled gardeners, a wide range of horticultural resources, and lots of student nurses, some of whom showed a real interest in plants. As part of his training, Colin attended Durham Institute of Agriculture (Houghall) on a three-year day release course in horticulture, coming top in his final exams.

A number of people suggested Kew as a career option; he applied, was refused, and a few weeks later, received a letter of acceptance. On the strength of this, he asked a lovely student nurse, Valerie, to move south with him and complete her training in Kingston: she agreed, subject to marriage.

The move to Kew (1965) was an intimidating experience for Colin: no pits, hardly a 'nut' of coal, and natives that had severe difficulties with his simplest, most deliberately enunciated utterances. Then there was the overwhelming beauty and diversity of Kew Gardens. He remembers feeling somewhat overawed, and more than a little bewildered by the experience. Fortunately, there was no cause for

concern, his first placement involved digging out the South African bed in the temperate house. It occurred to him that he might never slip the chains of mining, but the moment passed and his time at Kew just got better and better.

In fact, Colin regarded his 'charges' among the best at Kew, many of them behind the scenes in 'pits' of various kinds, providing ample freedom to 'mess about' with plants. He was less happy about the academic side of the course, because the first-year lectures were summarily cancelled, causing unrest amongst the students. Disappointed by the change, he registered as an external candidate for Advanced Level Botany (London) and negotiated the use of the Jodrel for the associated anatomy practicals. He remembers a young David Cutler setting up the necessary equipment, stains and reagents.

The Kew experience was incalculably enriching for Colin, not just because of the incomparable plant collection, but also because of Kew's many caring, committed staff, eager to share their knowledge and love of plants. He later realised that these were exceptional people, and he is indebted to their influence. Increasingly he recognises Kew as a very special place, and is grateful that he can maintain his links by way of the Kew Guild, which he is honoured to serve as President.

The only shadow over Colin and Valerie's time at Kew was the death of their first son, also called Colin. Few knew of his arrival, it was not easy to discuss, and things became more problematic as his health declined. Colin was born at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in February 1968, died in Great Ormond Street Hospital after five weeks of continual surgery, and was buried in Richmond cemetery.

Later that year, Colin completed the Kew Diploma, passed the National Diploma in Horticulture (intermediate) and 'went up' to the University of Newcastle upon Tyne as a postgraduate student. The move developed a latent interest in large-scale ecological processes and land use planning, which was consolidated by a brief spell as a research assistant with the University-based mine-waste reclamation research team.

On graduating from Newcastle (1970), Colin joined Hampshire County Planning Department, where he spent the next 27 years exploring career options, raising a family and running marathons with Valerie.

Hampshire offered unrivalled opportunities to become involved in a range of large-scale landscape initiatives. These included: The Blackwater Valley restoration project, which tackled urban fringe problems related to industrial dereliction, waste disposal and mineral extraction; The East Hampshire Hangers project, which secured the management of a chain of escarpment beech woods, including those at Selbourne; and a study to identify and map Hampshire's pasture woodland complexes. He also designed and implemented the landscape infrastructure for the Chineham (Basingstoke) development project, a major civic design programme, part of which, the Lychpit Local Centre, won a Civic Design Commendation (1986).

During his time in Hampshire, he was also involved in a fair number of controversial issues, not least the M3-Tyford Down 'epic'. Following the government decision

to proceed with the construction of the M3 motorway through Tyford Down, Winchester, he set up and chaired an *ad hoc* monitoring group. This brought together hitherto contending factions, with the aim of overseeing the transfer, restoration and management of key habitats. The successes of the group were a milestone in terms of mediation and highway planning in that they secured from the emotional rubble of the country's longest running planning dispute, a 25 year management plan for Tyford Down and a 10 year monitoring scheme for the related habitat creation and transfer projects (ISBN 1870393406).

Over the years, Colin's work moved from landscape design through landscape planning to landscape ecology. In the process, he completed a Doctorate in biology (Southampton, 1994), developed links with a number of learned societies and professional organisations, became increasingly involved in environmental issues at a European level and developed skills as an expert witness. He particularly enjoyed his role as an 'expert' witness: it suited his personality, integrated various elements of his training and experience, and was relatively free from coercive politics. At 'inquiry', there was just his proof of evidence, the opposing submissions, and the public scrutiny of a cross-examining barrister.

Colin is a Chartered biologist, a European Professional Biologist and is a fellow of the Institute of Horticulture and the Institute of Biology.

He has served on the Council of the Institute of Biology (1989-1992), chaired its Computer Review Working Group (1993) and its Wessex branch (1988-1994). He currently represents the British Ecological Society and the Institute of Horticulture, respectively, on the Agriculture and Environment committees of the Institute of Biology, and will chair its Environment Committee from October 2005. In addition, Colin is serving a second term as a member of the Public Policy Committee of the British Ecological Society and has been appointed to the Sustainability Committee of the recently formed UK Biosciences Federation. He is also a non-executive board member of the European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism.

Colin has given numerous presentations at higher education establishments and research institutes, most recently at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency and the Universities of Southampton, Sussex, Leeds, Colerain, and at the Royal College of Agriculture, Cirencester. He has also chaired and spoken to sessions of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; represented European non government organisations at the European Commission Advisory Committee (Agriculture and the Environment); has a long track record of defending evidence at planning inquiries, and referees for a number of international scientific journals.

Recent publications include: articles on the impact of agricultural reform on Europe's environment (*La Canada*), most recently examining the impact of accession on high nature value cattle systems (2004, 18: ISSN 1027-2070); an evaluation study for the Council of Europe on bird corridors within a Pan-European Ecological Network (2002, ISBN 0119879298), and; a report to the European Commission on the Development and Elaboration of the European Union Biodiversity Action Plan for Agriculture.

Colin has also published on the identification and mapping of pasture woodland using geographic information techniques (1997, ISBN 0952426331) and is co-author and co-editor of *'Land management: the Hidden costs'* published by Blackwell Science for the British Ecological Society (2000, ISBN 0632056525). *'Land Management'* sets out an approach to sustainable production that underpins European policy and directs many national (UK) initiatives on conservation, agriculture and rural delivery.

Colin is a consultant landscape ecologist who undertakes a good measure of voluntary work and contrives to spend as much time as he can with his grandchildren. Valerie, his wife of almost 40 years, manages a 50 bed nursing home in Sunderland and is a Registered General Nurse with an MA in health promotion and education. Colin and Valerie live in Hamsterley Vale, a former pit village on the edge of the Durham Dales. They have three sons and a daughter, all grown up, and, to-date, six grand children: Joy, Alice, Lawrence, Lili, Thomas, and Luc.

SANDY ATKINS

Vice-President 2003-2004

I joined Kew in 1981 in the Plant Records Department of the Gardens helping to catalogue the plantings in the Alpine department under Brian Halliwell, with Alan Cook and Tony Hall as supervisors.

In 1984 I moved to the Herbarium and worked as an assistant to Dr. Ray Harley in the **Labiatae** section where I specialised in **Verbenaceae**, the sister family to the **Labiatae**, and especially the Brazilian representatives. I made seven plant collecting trips including Brazil and SE Asia.

While at Kew, I tragically lost my son, Tom, and then my husband Robert. I have a daughter, Hannah, who is a botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, and a granddaughter, Grace, born in 2004. I married Mark Coode in 2000, and retired from Kew in 2004.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roy Forster

Roy served an apprenticeship with the Wallasey Parks Dept, in Cheshire, before National Service in the Canal Zone. He was a trainee at John Innes Horticultural Institute before entering Kew in 1955. He came to Canada in 1957 to work at the

Colin has also published on the identification and mapping of pasture woodland using geographic information techniques (1997, ISBN 0952426331) and is co-author and co-editor of *'Land management: the Hidden costs'* published by Blackwell Science for the British Ecological Society (2000, ISBN 0632056525). *'Land Management'* sets out an approach to sustainable production that underpins European policy and directs many national (UK) initiatives on conservation, agriculture and rural delivery.

Colin is a consultant landscape ecologist who undertakes a good measure of voluntary work and contrives to spend as much time as he can with his grandchildren. Valerie, his wife of almost 40 years, manages a 50 bed nursing home in Sunderland and is a Registered General Nurse with an MA in health promotion and education. Colin and Valerie live in Hamsterley Vale, a former pit village on the edge of the Durham Dales. They have three sons and a daughter, all grown up, and, to-date, six grand children: Joy, Alice, Lawrence, Lili, Thomas, and Luc.

SANDY ATKINS

Vice-President 2003-2004

I joined Kew in 1981 in the Plant Records Department of the Gardens helping to catalogue the plantings in the Alpine department under Brian Halliwell, with Alan Cook and Tony Hall as supervisors.

In 1984 I moved to the Herbarium and worked as an assistant to Dr. Ray Harley in the **Labiatae** section where I specialised in **Verbenaceae**, the sister family to the **Labiatae**, and especially the Brazilian representatives. I made seven plant collecting trips including Brazil and SE Asia.

While at Kew, I tragically lost my son, Tom, and then my husband Robert. I have a daughter, Hannah, who is a botanist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, and a granddaughter, Grace, born in 2004. I married Mark Coode in 2000, and retired from Kew in 2004.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Roy Forster

Roy served an apprenticeship with the Wallasey Parks Dept, in Cheshire, before National Service in the Canal Zone. He was a trainee at John Innes Horticultural Institute before entering Kew in 1955. He came to Canada in 1957 to work at the

Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario as a plant hybridist, but took time out to attend McMaster University for a degree in art history and methods.

Roy came to British Columbia in 1972 to be the first Curator/Director of the new VanDusen Botanical Garden. He retired in 1996 and soon after published a book 'The Woodland Garden'. In recognition of his horticultural/botanical work he was awarded the Order of Canada in 1999.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by **Tom Risley**, Secretary 2004-2005

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild, held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on Saturday 11th September 2004.

Note: Notice of the meeting, agenda and list of apologies are given as addenda to the minutes.

- 01-04** The President welcomed members and their partners. 27 members attended the meeting.
- 02-04** **Apologies for Absence:** Attached as addendum to the minutes.
- 03.04** **Notice of Deaths of Members:** Members were advised of the deaths of George Preston, Stanley Brooks and Phil Wood. A period of silence was kept in memory.
- 04.04** **Minutes of the 2003 AGM:** These were printed in the Events of 2003 *Journal*. They were moved as a correct record: proposed by Nigel Hepper, seconded by Mike Lycett and unanimously approved.
- 05.04** **Matters Arising:** The President read a communication from Chris Wedell, giving information on the establishment of the Guild web site. He thanked Chris for his work.
- 06.04-01** **Hon. Secretary's Report – Tom Risely:** He reported that the Committee had met on four occasions during the Guild Year – in October, January, April and July and that the meetings had been well attended. All Committee communications are now sent electronically where possible. The Committee has appointed a Communications Secretary, Sara Arnold of the organization, Secret Genius. She maintains a Committee database and prepares and transmits minutes and other Committee communications.
- 04.04-02** *Communications received regarding this AGM:*
- i. Roy Forster, who hopes to establish Guild links in Canada
 - ii. C. H. Attwood – stresses need for members' information to be available to assist in maintaining communications.
 - iii. Trevor Matthews (Leicester) best wishes to Guild and friends.
 - iv. Jennifer Day – see minute 09.04

Horticultural Research Institute of Ontario as a plant hybridist, but took time out to attend McMaster University for a degree in art history and methods.

Roy came to British Columbia in 1972 to be the first Curator/Director of the new VanDusen Botanical Garden. He retired in 1996 and soon after published a book 'The Woodland Garden'. In recognition of his horticultural/botanical work he was awarded the Order of Canada in 1999.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE KEW GUILD

by **Tom Risley**, Secretary 2004-2005

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild, held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew on Saturday 11th September 2004.

Note: Notice of the meeting, agenda and list of apologies are given as addenda to the minutes.

- 01-04** The President welcomed members and their partners. 27 members attended the meeting.
- 02-04** **Apologies for Absence:** Attached as addendum to the minutes.
- 03.04** **Notice of Deaths of Members:** Members were advised of the deaths of George Preston, Stanley Brooks and Phil Wood. A period of silence was kept in memory.
- 04.04** **Minutes of the 2003 AGM:** These were printed in the Events of 2003 *Journal*. They were moved as a correct record: proposed by Nigel Hepper, seconded by Mike Lycett and unanimously approved.
- 05.04** **Matters Arising:** The President read a communication from Chris Wedell, giving information on the establishment of the Guild web site. He thanked Chris for his work.
- 06.04-01** **Hon. Secretary's Report – Tom Risely:** He reported that the Committee had met on four occasions during the Guild Year – in October, January, April and July and that the meetings had been well attended. All Committee communications are now sent electronically where possible. The Committee has appointed a Communications Secretary, Sara Arnold of the organization, Secret Genius. She maintains a Committee database and prepares and transmits minutes and other Committee communications.
- 04.04-02** *Communications received regarding this AGM:*
- i. Roy Forster, who hopes to establish Guild links in Canada
 - ii. C. H. Attwood – stresses need for members' information to be available to assist in maintaining communications.
 - iii. Trevor Matthews (Leicester) best wishes to Guild and friends.
 - iv. Jennifer Day – see minute 09.04

- v. Alex George. Hopes it will be possible to establish and maintain a database of all Kewites (not just Guild members). This would be useful in widening communications and strengthening Guild membership.
- 06.04-03 TR reported that Allan Hart, Immediate Past President, had received a letter from the Private Secretary of the Guild's Patron, Princess Alexandra, inviting the Guild to nominate four people to attend a Royal Garden Party. As there was no scheduled Committee meeting between receipt of the letter and the event, Allan and the President had agreed to nominate Sandy Atkins, Jill Cowley, Roy Jones and Tom Risely – all with long histories of service to the Guild. These four attended a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday 6th July and were personally welcomed by our Patron.
- 07.04 Hon. Treasurer's Report – Jennifer Alsop:** Jennifer reported that the accounts for 2003 were contained in the *Journal* for that year. The finances were generally in a healthy state: income exceeds expenditure (partially due to reduced *Journal* costs with the omission of members names and addresses – see minute 13.04) and no increase in subscription is proposed.
- The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Mike Wilkinson, seconded by Allan Hart and unanimously agreed. The President thanked Jennifer on behalf of the Guild, for her work as Hon. Treasurer.
- 08.04 Hon. Membership Secretary's Report – Stewart Henchie:** Stewart reported that membership now stands at 394: 330 standard, with the balance of student, life and miscellaneous. (This figure is down from 438 reported at the 2003 AGM).
- Problems continue with 28 members who pay full subscription, but for whom we have no current address and who therefore receive no *Journal* or membership benefits. Also, with 14 Kewites who pay out-of-date subscriptions and therefore do not qualify as members or receive benefits.
- 09.04 Hon. Editor's Report – Jennifer Day:** Jennifer was unable to be present but she had reported to the Hon. Secretary who passed on her verbal report. "The next *Journal* – for Events of 2004 – is in the course of initial preparation. It will resume the publication of membership information (see minute 13-04)." Jennifer would welcome more articles for the next issue and more support on its preparation. (This will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee on 15th October).
- 10.04 Hon. Events Officer's Report – Pamela Holt:** Pamela reported on the visit to the Linnaean Society in Autumn 2003. This was very informative and enjoyable and was followed by an early evening meal in a nearby restaurant where Guild Fellowship was expanded.
- The Annual Dinner was held at the Orangery at Kew on Saturday 22nd May, with an attendance of 82.

Visits have been made to Whitchurch Mill on 23rd May and to Alnwick Castle Gardens on 19th June (attended by 10 members).

Visits are planned on 2nd October to Thenford House Gardens, near Banbury, and on 21st November to the restored glasshouses at Sheffield.

- 11.04 Awards Committee Chairman's Report – Allan Hart:** Allan reported that £5,780 was available for awards and 11 were made, eight to students and three to full Guild members. A full report and activities of the Awards Committee will be included in the *Journal*. Allan asked that the Awards Committee be re-elected for a further year.

A. Hart, Chair; I. Leese, Acting Secretary; J. Alsop, Treasurer; Emma Fox; Katie Steele; David Barnes; Stewart Henchie; Mark Pitman and Tracey Stickler.

A further student member is yet to be nominated.

The re-election was unanimous.

- 12.04 Student Diploma Day – The President reported:** The Guild sponsors seven prizes and these had been presented during the event. (Details will be published in the *Journal*). The Director, during his introduction, had appealed to outgoing students to maintain links with Kew through ongoing membership of the Guild.

- 13.04 Data Protection – The President reported:** Because of concerns regarding data protection, the names and addresses of members had not been included in the last two issues of the *Journal*. Advice has been sought from the Data Protection Information Commissioner. Information has been received by e-mail. This is fairly lengthy, but in essence, says that the Guild can continue with established practices, i.e., the publication of names and addresses of existing members in the annual *Journal*. Additional information cannot be published (e.g., telephone numbers/e-mail addresses) without the written approval of specific members.

Also, agreement should be sought from incoming members for publication of their data. On this basis, the Guild Committee has decided to resume the publication of members' names and addresses in future *Journals*.

- 14.04 New Membership Categories – Colin Hindmarch reported:** Colin stated that the agenda item was not correct and that he and the Committee were not proposing new membership categories. Current rules for membership are set out in Rule 3 (Membership) of the Guild Constitution (a copy of this Rule is attached to these minutes as Addendum 3). Recognising that organisations such as Kew are increasingly dependent upon volunteer unpaid workers – often professional highly skilled individuals, possibly early retired – it is intended to endeavour to tap this source of potential membership. The Committee will draw up criteria for membership under Rule 3b, to be applied to membership applications in this category. Thus, applications would not be considered on a personal basis, but in accordance

with defined criteria. A resolution to proceed on this basis was proposed by Graham Burgess, seconded by Nigel Hepper and agreed unanimously. Tom Wood made the suggestion that Associate Membership be considered and in accordance with normal practice, this will be forwarded to the Guild Committee for consideration.

- 15.04** A vote of thanks to retiring Officers and Committee Members was proposed by Mike Wilkinson, seconded by Kenwyn Pearson and passed unanimously. This will be passed to Jill Cowley, Vice President; Sandra Leche, Overseas Committee Member; Chris Weddell, Committee Member; Marcella Corcoran, Student Committee Member.

David Cutler becomes Immediate Past President and Sandy Atkins becomes Vice President.

- 16.04 Election of Officers:** The Committee has proposed (all correctly nominated, seconded and agreed at the 22nd July Committee Meeting)

President for 2004 – 2005: Colin Hindmarch

Vice President for 2004 – 2005: Sandy Atkins

President Elect for 2004 – 2005: Robert Hebb and to be President for 2005 – 2006.

Committee Members for three years 2004 – 2007:

Roy Forster – Overseas, Canada

Graham Burgess

The Hon. Secretary reported two other nominations for Committee Members: Matthew Biggs, proposed by Tom Risely, seconded by Martin Sands
Mike Lycett, proposed by B. Pitcher, seconded by Allan Hart.

All the current Officers had agreed to continue and there were no other nominations for these positions. As there was only one nomination for each of the positions, the President proposed election of all on block and this was agreed unanimously.

- 17.04 Any Other Business**

17.04-01 Nigel Hepper reported that he had written an article on the Guild for the Richmond Local History Society and suggested publishing it in the *Guild Journal*. This was enthusiastically received.

17.04-02 Colin Hindmarch reported that the Kew Guild sponsored lecture to the Mutual Improvement Society would be given by Alan Titchmarsh on 4th October 2004 at Kew.

- 18.04** The President, David Cutler, formally handed the responsibilities of Office to Colin Hindmarch for the Guild year, September 2005 to September 2005.

- 19.04 Date of the Next Annual General Meeting:** The date of the next Annual General Meeting of the Kew Guild is to be held on Saturday 10th September 2005.

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY SPEECH 2004

by Ian Leese, Director of Studies

Madam Mayor, Sir Richard, Chairman, Director, Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I add my welcome to you on this day which is the main event in the calendar of the School of Horticulture. Madam Mayor, we thank you very much for attending today. You have a particular interest in education, and we are sure that you will enjoy this celebration of our students' achievements. Sir Richard, the Royal Horticultural Society and Kew have histories that are entwined. Indeed, it was Kew's first unofficial Director, Sir Joseph Banks, who was one of the seven founders of the Horticultural Society of London (as the RHS was first known) on 7 March 1804. You are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the RHS this year, while we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of Kew in 2009.

It is my pleasure to give a report on the activities of the School of Horticulture over the past academic year, highlighting the successes that have been achieved. Firstly, I must thank everyone who contributes in any way to the Kew Diploma course, including the support of Dr. Nigel Taylor, Head of Department, and Mr. Greg Redwood, Head of Section, for making the resources available for our students to receive the best possible experience here.

It has been a very successful year in every respect. In terms of publicity, the School of Horticulture and our students feature in the BBC 2 television series, as well as the book accompanying the programmes. Copies of this can be purchased at the Victoria Gate Bookshop, and we can sign them for you. Mary Keen in *The Daily Telegraph* in March wrote about nine rising stars of horticulture, five of whom were Kew Diploma graduates. In June, *The Observer Review* published a list of 80 talented young people who they believe will shape our lives in the early 21st century. They included scientists, entrepreneurs, novelists, artists, architects, musicians, politicians, and also a Kew Diploma graduate.

We knew it was going to be an eventful year when Miss Australia was elected President of the Students' Union last summer, and so this has proved. We have had one glorious wedding, generously shared with everyone at the School, and, most recently, a wonderful engagement. It has been the year of the Olympics in Athens, and the mini-Olympics here at Kew. The latter was the brainchild of Miss Australia. People came from all over the world of Kew, and took part in exciting events such as the egg and spoon race and the sack race. It also was the occasion of what seems like a marathon, the Round the Gardens Race. I still wish that beach volleyball could have been recognised as a mini-Olympics sport by the organisers.

Most Kew Diploma graduates stay within botanic gardens after their training, and a number are employed on the staff at Kew. Three of this year's graduates, Andy Conner, Marcella Corcoran, and Annie Waddington, have already secured posts here, while two more graduates are awaiting the results of applications for Kew

SCHOOL OF HORTICULTURE KEW DIPLOMA PRIZE DAY SPEECH 2004

by Ian Leese, Director of Studies

Madam Mayor, Sir Richard, Chairman, Director, Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, may I add my welcome to you on this day which is the main event in the calendar of the School of Horticulture. Madam Mayor, we thank you very much for attending today. You have a particular interest in education, and we are sure that you will enjoy this celebration of our students' achievements. Sir Richard, the Royal Horticultural Society and Kew have histories that are entwined. Indeed, it was Kew's first unofficial Director, Sir Joseph Banks, who was one of the seven founders of the Horticultural Society of London (as the RHS was first known) on 7 March 1804. You are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the RHS this year, while we look forward to celebrating the 250th anniversary of Kew in 2009.

It is my pleasure to give a report on the activities of the School of Horticulture over the past academic year, highlighting the successes that have been achieved. Firstly, I must thank everyone who contributes in any way to the Kew Diploma course, including the support of Dr. Nigel Taylor, Head of Department, and Mr. Greg Redwood, Head of Section, for making the resources available for our students to receive the best possible experience here.

It has been a very successful year in every respect. In terms of publicity, the School of Horticulture and our students feature in the BBC 2 television series, as well as the book accompanying the programmes. Copies of this can be purchased at the Victoria Gate Bookshop, and we can sign them for you. Mary Keen in *The Daily Telegraph* in March wrote about nine rising stars of horticulture, five of whom were Kew Diploma graduates. In June, *The Observer Review* published a list of 80 talented young people who they believe will shape our lives in the early 21st century. They included scientists, entrepreneurs, novelists, artists, architects, musicians, politicians, and also a Kew Diploma graduate.

We knew it was going to be an eventful year when Miss Australia was elected President of the Students' Union last summer, and so this has proved. We have had one glorious wedding, generously shared with everyone at the School, and, most recently, a wonderful engagement. It has been the year of the Olympics in Athens, and the mini-Olympics here at Kew. The latter was the brainchild of Miss Australia. People came from all over the world of Kew, and took part in exciting events such as the egg and spoon race and the sack race. It also was the occasion of what seems like a marathon, the Round the Gardens Race. I still wish that beach volleyball could have been recognised as a mini-Olympics sport by the organisers.

Most Kew Diploma graduates stay within botanic gardens after their training, and a number are employed on the staff at Kew. Three of this year's graduates, Andy Conner, Marcella Corcoran, and Annie Waddington, have already secured posts here, while two more graduates are awaiting the results of applications for Kew

jobs. In the world outside, Kew Diploma graduate, Jo Rowntree, Curator of Sheffield Botanical Gardens, had the pleasure of showing round His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales when he opened the restored Grade 2-listed glass pavilions there last autumn. Wolfgang Bopp, Curator of the National Botanic Garden of Wales, moved to become Curator of The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Arboretum. Japanese graduate, Dr. Junko Oikawa, has become Coordinator of Japanese Programmes for the organisation Botanic Gardens Conservation International.

After botanic gardens, many Kew Diploma graduates work as estate head gardeners. This year's graduate, Iain Turnbull, is going to an estate in Kingston, while Thomas Unterdorfer is joining the staff of a private estate in Gloucestershire. Esther McMillan has been promoted to the position of Head Gardener at Kelmarsh Hall in Northamptonshire. Hannah Gardner, after some time at Sissinghurst, has become Head Gardener of Garsington Manor in Oxfordshire. John Lanyon is now Head Gardener at Knightshayes Court, the National Trust estate in Devon. Mark Ward has been promoted to be Plant Area Manager at Ryton Gardens, the headquarters of the Henry Doubleday Research Association. Tom Coward, who graduated last September, has joined the gardens staff of Sir Paul McCartney. Keith Moyle has just started work as Head Gardener at the estate of Stella McCartney.

You will know, Sir Richard, that many Kew Diploma graduates work for the Royal Horticultural Society. Last year, Nicky Sharp was appointed Senior Gardener in the Rock Garden Department. Leigh Hunt became one of your Horticultural Advisers. They joined your existing Kew Diploma graduate staff – David Jewell, Anna Ottaway and Christopher Weddell at Wisley, and Chris Bailes and Sarah Chesters at Rosemoor, as well as Ian Hodgson, Editor of your magazine *'The Garden'*.

A number of Kew Diploma graduates progress onto higher education. Currently, one of last year's graduates, Fumiko Ishizuna, is completing the M.Sc. in Horticulture degree at the University of Reading. Ruth Bone gained an M.Sc. in Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants, and is now horticultural co-ordinator for the Mauritian Wildlife Foundation. Frank Emmerich obtained a Distinction M.Sc. in Horticulture from the University of Reading, and has returned to work in his native Germany. Mima Taylor is studying the Imperial College one-year Research Masters in Biological Systematics at the Natural History Museum. Sarah Rutherford was awarded a Ph.D. from De Montfort University for a thesis on lunatic asylum landscapes. Two of this year's graduates have M.Sc. degree places. Heli Markkola has gained a scholarship to study the M.Sc. in the Conservation of Plant Genetic Resources at the University of Birmingham, while Stuart Robbins has a place on the M.Sc. in Biodiversity and Taxonomy of Plants at the University of Edinburgh.

Several Kew graduates have chosen careers in the media. The Director has already mentioned the BBC 2 series on Kew, the third programme of which will be held tonight. Kew Diploma graduate, Alan Titchmarsh, is doing the commentary throughout. Helenka Jurgielewicz is specialist horticultural researcher for the second

series which is being filmed currently. During the year, Alys Fowler was promoted from Features Writer for *'Horticulture Week'* to be Features Editor. Recently, she has been further promoted to be Editor of *'Landscape Review'* produced bimonthly by the same magazine. Tom Hoblyn has started a monthly article for a new magazine *'Grand Designs'*. Kew graduate Christine Lavelle, along with her husband, Michael, won the Garden Writers' Guild 'Best Practical Book of the Year' award for their book on organic gardening.

Both Christine and Michael are lecturers at Writtle College. Other Kew Diploma graduates involved in education include Suzanne Michel who was appointed Head of Community and Education at Trees for London. Also, Gareth Bird became Horticultural Supervisor for a horticultural therapy project at St. Bernard's Hospital, Ealing.

A number of Kew graduates have entered landscaping careers, including two from this year. Louise Danks has a position with Cameron Landscapes in London, while Martin O'Halloran is starting as Area Landscape Manager with Bracknell Forest District Council. At the beginning of 2004, Neil Huck was elected President of the trade organisation, BALI, the British Association of Landscape Industries. Silvia Crawford, working with Tom Hoblyn, designed and installed a new garden for St. Ethelburga's, the medieval City of London church now restored from the devastation of an IRA bomb in 1993. The garden has been awarded the James Miller Trophy for the best new display by the Flowers in the City Campaign.

Dan Pearson, who trained at Wisley before coming to Kew, this year gained a silver-gilt medal for Chelsea Show sponsors, Merrill Lynch. Mima Taylor works for Christopher Bradley-Hole, our visiting lecturer in landscape, and was heavily involved in his 2004 Chelsea Show garden, *Hortus Conclusus*, for Sheikh Zayed, President of the United Arab Emirates. This won the 'Best Show Garden' award. Kew Diploma graduates were responsible for the planting of the garden, and the RHS was quoted in *'The Times'* as saying "Judges were unanimously impressed with the garden. The planting in particular is near-perfect." During the show, current Kew Diploma students worked tirelessly to give information out to the visiting public.

Apart from the achievements of our graduates, there have been a number of developments at Kew this year which have featured our current students. First-year students have directly contributed to the 'New Views of Kew' summer festival through the display of their vegetable plots in the Order Beds area just outside this building. This has proved very popular overall with the visiting public. We are most grateful, too, for the provision of seeds for this project from Thompson and Morgan Limited and irrigation equipment from Hozelock Limited. Helped by Kew Diploma graduate, Markus Radscheit, Technical Manager of Bonn University Botanic Garden, first-years also organised a study trip to Germany and impressed their hosts.

A committee of second-year students, aided by some Kew staff and outside members, have been responsible for a very successful Kew Mutual Improvement Society series of weekly evening lectures from September last year to the end of this April.

Third-year students, aided by their tutor, Brita von Schoenaich were given the opportunity to have their landscape design projects constructed as part of the 'New Views of Kew' festival. The designs of Tim Blancpain, Louise Danks, Heli Markkola, Stuart Robbins, Ellen Sivell, and Thomas Unterdorfer were chosen for construction. These have proved very popular with the public, and we are grateful for the generous support of the SITA Environmental Trust and the David Colegrave Foundation for these gardens.

As well as the Kew Diploma, the School of Horticulture also administers the Internship Programme of three months' work experience in the gardens. This year, we have exceeded last year's record with 48 interns – from all five continents. Alex Henderson, School of Horticulture staff member, successfully arranges a course of studies, in addition to the work experience that they gain in the gardens. This now provides a very useful source of recruitment onto the Rotational Training Scheme, which is organised by the Practical Training Coordinator, Martin Staniforth, as well as the Kew Diploma.

I also wish to recognise the other School of Horticulture staff, especially Barbara Hanson and Pam Black, our volunteer, Francis Tidiman, and Volunteer Co-ordinator, Belinda Parry, who is based in the School. They all provide the highest standards of care to our students and interns. It is a great privilege to work with such wonderful people.

Finally, on behalf of Kew as a whole, I must thank Course 39, who are leaving us today, for the immense contribution that each of you have made to Kew during the past three years. We have hugely enjoyed the great variety of food and drink which you have produced from being such an international group from Australia, Europe, Japan, South Africa, and the USA. You have persevered through the difficult Kew Diploma course, remained together, and all of you have been successful. In addition, you have been excellent ambassadors for us both at home and abroad.

We wish you continued success in the careers you have chosen whether at Kew or elsewhere. Kew will always remain open to you as a resource, and we encourage you to keep in touch with us through the membership of the Friends of Kew and the professional fellowship of the Kew Guild. Above all, in whatever you do, we ask that you uphold Kew's mission which is: "to enable better management of the Earth's environment by increasing knowledge and understanding of the plant and fungal kingdoms – the basis of life on earth."

PRESENTATION OF KEW DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES 2004

(Course 39)

We begin with the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes to third-year students of Kew Diploma Course 39. Thanks must go to all sponsors of our prizes, many of whom are in the audience today. In particular, I must thank the Kew Guild, whose President, Dr. David Cutler, is on the platform. The Guild, an association of past

and present Kew staff and students, give several awards today, as well as in excess of £5,000 towards travel scholarships. Thanks should also go to the Friends of Kew whose gift of a year's free membership to each of our graduates will help them keep in touch. In addition, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Merlin Trust, the Bentham Moxon Trust, the Southdown Trust, and the Oleg Polunin Memorial Fund have all given grants to our students and Kew staff this year.

TIM BLANCPAIN

Kew Diploma Pass grade.

PORTIA BOSCH

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as Treasurer during the past year.

The International Plant Propagators' Society Student Award for the top Plant Propagation project.

The Kew Guild Individual Study Prize for the person attaining the second-highest marks in their third-year Dissertation.

The C.P. Raffill Prize, donated by the Kew Guild to the winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition

The George Conrad Johnson Memorial Prize, administered by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees on behalf of the magazine 'The Grower', in memory of an ex-Kewite. The prize is for the best overall performance on the Kew Diploma course.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize, donated by the City of London Livery Company, which also recognises the top student position.

Kew Diploma Honours grade

ANDY CONNER

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

MARCELLA CORCORAN

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as President over the past year.

The C.P. Raffill Prize, donated by the Kew Guild to the winner of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition.

The Squire's Garden Centre Prize, donated by the local garden centre, for the most appropriate and imaginative use of plants in the final-year landscape design project.

The British Friends of Jerusalem Botanical Gardens Scholarship for a third-year placement at the garden in Jerusalem.

The Ernest Thornton-Smith Travelling Scholarship which is the major final-year travel award, presented by the Trustees of the Thornton-Smith and Plevins Young People's Trust, to allow a Kew Diploma graduate to travel overseas. The trip will be to Cameroon to work with Kew staff on the Earthwatch Cameroon Rainforest Expedition.

The Worshipful Company of Gardeners' Prize, awarded by the City of London Livery Company, to the person who has done most for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew during the course.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

LOUISE DANKS

The George Brown Prize, from the Kew Guild, in memory of a former Assistant Curator, to the runner-up in the Kew Mutual Improvement Society's student lecture competition.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

MARTIN HAMILTON

The Dummer Memorial Prize, sponsored by the Kew Guild, for the best Plant Portfolio project.

The Kingdon-Ward Prize, given by Winifred Kingdon-Ward in memory of her brother, Frank, a noted plant collector, to the student attaining the highest marks in their final-year Dissertation.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

HELI MARKKOLA

'The Kew Gardener' Arboricultural Prize, sponsored by Matthew Vincent, a Kew Diploma graduate, and proprietor of *'The Kew Gardener'*, situated next to Kew Gardens station, for the person who came top in the examination of that second-year subject.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

MARTIN O'HALLORAN

The Prize for the best vegetable plot, donated by the Kew Guild to the student obtaining the highest marks in this practical first year project.

The Metcalfe Cup, donated by the late Dr Metcalfe, a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory, to the student attaining the highest second-year examination marks.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

CARL POOLEY

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as Vice-President over the past year.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

STUART ROBBINS

The Donald Dring Memorial Prize, sponsored by the Bentham-Moxon Trustees in memory of a former mycologist of Kew's Herbarium, for the student attaining the highest marks in the Crop Protection project.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

ELLEN SIVELL

Life Membership of the Students' Union for services rendered as Events Co-ordinator over the past year.

The Plant Identification Tests Prize, donated by the Students' Union, to the person with the highest marks overall in these tests.

The F. Nigel Hepper Cup presented by a Kew botanist with a long association with the Kew Diploma course. Mr. Hepper has asked that the cup be given in recognition of the highest achievement in plant identification assessments.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

RIEKO TAKARADA

The Ian Hudson Prize for Ecology, for outstanding results in this subject, and donated by the lecturer of the course.

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

IAIN TURNBULL

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

THOMAS UNTERDORFER

The Lecturers' Prize, donated by Drs. Phillip Cribb and Nicholas Hind of Kew's Herbarium, to the student gaining the highest mark for their Systematic Botany project.

The Proudlock Prize, donated by the Kew Guild, to the runner-up in the Plant Portfolio project.

The Landsman's Bookshop Prize, and *The Paul Temple Prize*, sponsored by the international landscape designer, for the best overall performance in landscape design.

The Matilda Smith Memorial Prize, sponsored by the Kew Guild in memory of a botanical artist at Kew, and given to the best practical student overall.

The Fred Larkbey Cup, sponsored by Mr. Graham Larkbey in memory of his father who worked at Kew for 23 years as foreman in charge of all the extensive areas of bedding plants. Mr. Larkbey has asked that the Cup be awarded annually to the best practical student each year.

Kew Diploma Honours grade.

QUELINE VAN DER MERWE

Kew Diploma Pass grade.

ANNIE WADDINGTON

Kew Diploma Credit grade.

That concludes the presentations relating to the third-year students. We turn now to second year awards.

LUCY COLE

Last season's Kew Mutual Improvement Society weekly lecture programme was organised by several second-years. There is only one award, the *Kew Mutual Improvement Society's Prize*, for the position of Secretary. Heloise Brooke, Jackie Chambers, Lucy Cole and Tracy Stickler all shared this work. Lucy has been chosen to receive the prize.

TOM ATTWOOD

The David Dalziel Travel Scholarships are donated by Mr. Dalziel who lives in Florida. The first winner, Tom, visited botanical gardens in India that Kew helped establish in the past. He is also the joint recipient of the *Sir Joseph Hooker Prize* as joint-Chair of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. This prize is presented by the Director in memory of his famous predecessor.

ANDREA BRUNSENDORF

Andrea went on a study tour to Botswana to help design and establish propagation trials of economic plant species. She is also the recipient of *The Margolas Study Tour Award*, provided by the Margolas Trust, in recognition of the conservation value of the project. Additionally, she is the joint-winner of the *Sir Joseph Hooker Prize*, as joint-Chair of the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. The prize is augmented by a cup donated by Mrs. Hazel Hyde who retired as Administrative Officer of the School of Horticulture in 1993.

RICHARD MORTON

The next winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship* was Richard, who went on a study tour to Nanjing, China, to investigate the cultivation of temperate bamboo species.

CHRISTOPHER RICHARDSON

Christopher, also a winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship*, made a trip to botanic gardens in France to compare their education and conservation programmes with those at Kew.

TRACY STICKLER

Tracy, the final winner of *The David Dalziel Travel Scholarship*, went to Borneo to study the ecology, habitat, conservation, and cultivation of the genus *Nepenthes*.

RENATA MAZZINI

The Peter Cantor Memorial Prize is donated by Vivien Cantor in memory of her husband to the person who has done most during the course to make the desert more productive. Renata worked on a medicinal plant conservation project in the Sinai Desert in Egypt.

A number of prizes are awarded to first-year students on this occasion. They are:

CHRISTOPHER RYAN

The Merlin Trust and Alpine Garden Society Tour Scheme has awarded Christopher a fully-funded place on an Alpine Garden Society organised plant tour to Peloponnese in Greece.

MASAYA TATEBAYASHI

The Professor Keith Jones Cup is donated by a former Keeper of Jodrell Laboratory to the person who has given the best 'item of interest' talks to the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. Masaya covered traditional Japanese horticultural techniques and equipment.

VICKY DAVIES

The Rotary Club of Kew Gardens Vocational Service Award is presented by the local Rotary Club to the person who has done most for charity. The winner, Vicky, has been involved in Guiding from a very early age. Since starting the Kew Diploma course last September, she has helped with the 5th Kew Brownies and Guides.

JIM CABLE

Jim was awarded the *Tom Reynolds Prize for Plant Biochemistry and Physiology*, donated by one of our lecturers. This is awarded to the person obtaining the highest marks in this first-year subject.

SARA REDSTONE

The Institute of Horticulture Prize, sponsored by the Institute, is presented to Sara as the person with the best overall performance in the first year.

JAMES PUMFREY

Gardens staff of the Horticulture and Public Education Department, of which the School of Horticulture is a part, have benefited in recent years from the *John Scott-Marshall Travel Scholarships*. These are available from a bequest of Mr. Scott-Marshall who was a former editor of '*Gardeners' Chronicle*'. James is unable to be here today. He travelled to Nepal to study **birches** in their natural habitat.

WESLEY SHAW AND ANDREW LUKE

Wesley and Andrew left for South Africa yesterday to learn about local propagation and cultivation techniques of **cycads**, **ericas** and **proteas** to aid their work at Kew.

JOANNE EVERSON AND SUSAN SKINNER

Joanne and Susan made another joint venture when they went to study the alpine and sub-alpine vegetation of the Cascade Mountain range in Oregon, California. Susan Skinner is unable to be here.

NICK JOHNSON

A further staff member, Nick, worked with student Lucy Cole on a joint visit to Madagascar helping with a project to conserve the local flora.

ROSSANA PORTA

Rossana, a Kew Diploma graduate from last year, who is now a staff member, visited arboreta and nurseries in the eastern USA to aid her work in the Temperate and Arboretum Nursery here.

CYNTHIA MEDAS

We take this opportunity to award Cynthia *The Certificate in Botanical Horticulture*. She is the first successful trainee on Kew's new three-year comprehensive practical training and work experience programme, the Rotational Training Scheme, designed for new entrants to the industry.

That concludes the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes.

KEW GUILD EVENTS OF 2004

by Pamela Holt, Honorary Events Officer

Annual Kew Guild Dinner – 19th May

This year the Annual Dinner was celebrated on a Saturday attracting 82 members, students and guests. A fine sunny evening enabled the reception to take place on the terrace before the master of ceremonies, Richard Ward summoned us to our tables in the Orangery. President Professor David Cutler said grace before guests enjoyed the delicious three-course meal amidst animated discussion and laughter. It was encouraging to note 12 student members attended and thanks mainly to the sterling efforts of Tracy Stickler and Marcella Corcoran, £400 was raised through the raffle. Of this £100 went towards the student study tour to Spain and £300 was generously donated to the Kew Guild Award scheme.

David Cutler gave a fascinating insight on how he came to work at Kew and his guest Dr. John Marsden, Executive Secretary of the Linnean Society of London, spoke wittily and dryly on various aspects of biology and what we can expect plants to offer mankind in the future.

Our overseas members were welcomed and introduced and absent friends were toasted by the guild student representative Tracy Stickler. Professor Gren Lucas was honoured with the George Brown Award and presented with a personal scroll whilst his name will be added to the lectern shortly.

This sociable occasion was captured on film by our Membership Secretary Stewart Henchie.

NICK JOHNSON

A further staff member, Nick, worked with student Lucy Cole on a joint visit to Madagascar helping with a project to conserve the local flora.

ROSSANA PORTA

Rossana, a Kew Diploma graduate from last year, who is now a staff member, visited arboreta and nurseries in the eastern USA to aid her work in the Temperate and Arboretum Nursery here.

CYNTHIA MEDAS

We take this opportunity to award Cynthia *The Certificate in Botanical Horticulture*. She is the first successful trainee on Kew's new three-year comprehensive practical training and work experience programme, the Rotational Training Scheme, designed for new entrants to the industry.

That concludes the presentation of Kew Diplomas and prizes.

KEW GUILD EVENTS OF 2004

by Pamela Holt, Honorary Events Officer

Annual Kew Guild Dinner – 19th May

This year the Annual Dinner was celebrated on a Saturday attracting 82 members, students and guests. A fine sunny evening enabled the reception to take place on the terrace before the master of ceremonies, Richard Ward summoned us to our tables in the Orangery. President Professor David Cutler said grace before guests enjoyed the delicious three-course meal amidst animated discussion and laughter. It was encouraging to note 12 student members attended and thanks mainly to the sterling efforts of Tracy Stickler and Marcella Corcoran, £400 was raised through the raffle. Of this £100 went towards the student study tour to Spain and £300 was generously donated to the Kew Guild Award scheme.

David Cutler gave a fascinating insight on how he came to work at Kew and his guest Dr. John Marsden, Executive Secretary of the Linnean Society of London, spoke wittily and dryly on various aspects of biology and what we can expect plants to offer mankind in the future.

Our overseas members were welcomed and introduced and absent friends were toasted by the guild student representative Tracy Stickler. Professor Gren Lucas was honoured with the George Brown Award and presented with a personal scroll whilst his name will be added to the lectern shortly.

This sociable occasion was captured on film by our Membership Secretary Stewart Henchie.

Whitchurch Silk Mill and Nine Springs Nursery – Sunday 23rd May

Graham Burgess invited Kew Guild members to join with Churchill Fellows for a tour of Whitchurch Silk Mill on the river Test in Hampshire. A fascinating insight was given on the history and current methods of silk weaving by the director of the mill who allowed visitors to see and handle lengths of silk made specially to order.

After coffee the group made its way to Nine Springs Nursery where an extensive range of aquatics are grown by Graham and wife Gillian. From an environmentally friendly house built by themselves, the nursery is run alongside Graham's design business. The springs provide washing and drinking water and a composting system removes the need for mains sewerage. An al fresco meal and drinks were provided along with a guided tour of the nursery on the site of former water cress beds.

Many thanks to Graham and Gillian for the hospitality and the lovely weather added to the enjoyment of the day. What a pity only two Kewites attended.

Alnwick Gardens – Saturday 19th June

With raincoats and brolleys at the ready 10 Kew Guild members assembled at Alnwick Gardens, Northumberland for a tour with Head Gardener Chris Gough. The cold showery day could not dampen his enthusiasm for this continually evolving project.

The David Austin **roses** were at their best as were the **delphiniums** in the plant packed walled garden above the cascade. The pleached **hornbeams** were making good progress despite being recently planted and the fountains amused with the variety of patterns produced at regular intervals.

Amongst the new developments coming on stream will be a garden featuring plants with medicinal and poisonous properties, a spring feature of **cherry** trees under planted with bulbs and a large restaurant and visitor centre.

Later that evening an excellent meal was enjoyed at the Swan Hotel in Alnwick with many Kewites extending their stay to visit National Trust properties in the area such as Craggside and Wallington. Thanks to Colin Hindmarch who made all the arrangements for this successful foray 'up north.'

New member and employee of Kew Harvey Groffman rang not only to ask to come on the October visit but to tell me that his garden which regularly opens to the public will be featured on TV's *Gardeners World* on 3rd September. He is also to be featured in '*Garden News*' and has created a special carpet bedding design to commemorate the bi-centenary of the RHS. A photo of this was presented to the RHS President when he finished awarding the Student Kew Diplomas in September.

THENFORD HOUSE: A VISIT TO THE HESSELTINES

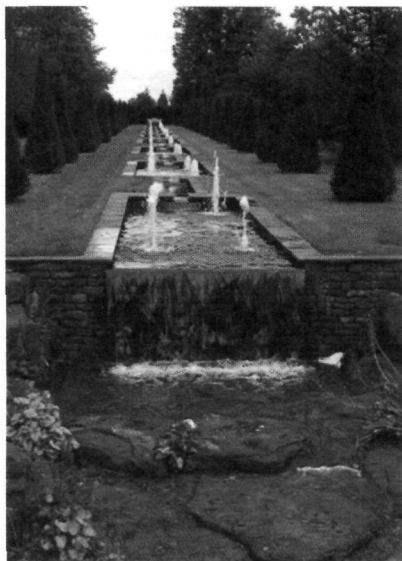
by Mike Clift

One fine October Saturday morning, some two dozen of us collected at Lord and Lady Hesselstine's Oxfordshire Estate. Previously, I had heard that Lord Hesselstine had for some years, been involved in the creation of an arboretum here, in itself a very worthy and timely endeavour. On a tour of this 30 acre estate, ably conducted by Darren Webster, it was very soon evident that there were other interesting and arresting items to catch ones eye.

The Sculpture Garden is one such feature. Here there are a collection of very recent creations, by Elizabeth Frink and others. Notable here was a large bust, of all people, Lenin, which Lord Hesselstine must have rescued from somewhere in Eastern Europe. How it was transported here, let alone raised on its plinth, caused many comments.



Bust of Lenin.



The Rill.

Water was another important and interesting feature in this garden. The Rill is an attractive and very different idea of a series of individual pools, each one with its fountains, then a waterfall dropping the water into the next pool and so on. A very wide fall at the lower end then feeds into the water garden and later still the lake.

There is a very wide assortment of well-established trees here: both H. G. Hillier and Roy Lancaster have had an input into this collection. The attempt to create a close-planted area of trees and shrubs on one steep bank would be well worth another later visit. For the older generation, the name of Hesselstine cropped up, some 20 years ago, in the creation of the series of Garden Festivals around the country. Liverpool was the first and here there are some large specimens rescued from that site.

THENFORD HOUSE: A VISIT TO THE HESSELTINES

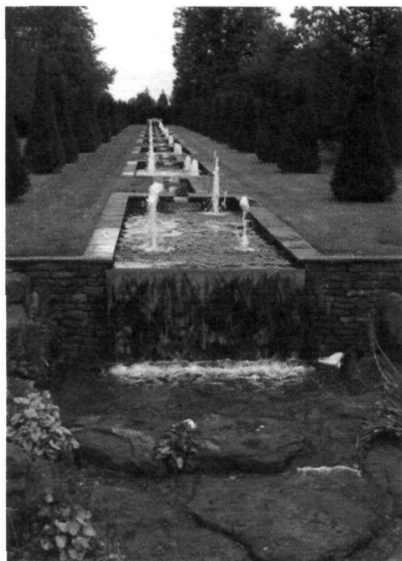
by Mike Clift

One fine October Saturday morning, some two dozen of us collected at Lord and Lady Hesselstine's Oxfordshire Estate. Previously, I had heard that Lord Hesselstine had for some years, been involved in the creation of an arboretum here, in itself a very worthy and timely endeavour. On a tour of this 30 acre estate, ably conducted by Darren Webster, it was very soon evident that there were other interesting and arresting items to catch ones eye.

The Sculpture Garden is one such feature. Here there are a collection of very recent creations, by Elizabeth Frink and others. Notable here was a large bust, of all people, Lenin, which Lord Hesselstine must have rescued from somewhere in Eastern Europe. How it was transported here, let alone raised on its plinth, caused many comments.



Bust of Lenin.



The Rill.

Water was another important and interesting feature in this garden. The Rill is an attractive and very different idea of a series of individual pools, each one with its fountains, then a waterfall dropping the water into the next pool and so on. A very wide fall at the lower end then feeds into the water garden and later still the lake.

There is a very wide assortment of well-established trees here: both H. G. Hillier and Roy Lancaster have had an input into this collection. The attempt to create a close-planted area of trees and shrubs on one steep bank would be well worth another later visit. For the older generation, the name of Hesselstine cropped up, some 20 years ago, in the creation of the series of Garden Festivals around the country. Liverpool was the first and here there are some large specimens rescued from that site.

The old Walled Garden has been noticeably updated and given a modern and contemporary outlook. The design of this enclosed area provides a very worthwhile result. Statuary in various styles was also evident here.

Certainly a touch of history is apparent, not only with the Heselenge but with the presence of some medieval fish ponds, possibly an item for investigation when the development of the gardens allow.

This was a fascinating visit, just to see how one person's ideas and resources combine in the resuscitation of a long established, but once neglected garden. Heligan is now being restored to what once was there, but here a very different challenge is being undertaken: to create a very contemporary garden, with traditional materials, in the confines of the old garden. Compliments are certainly due to Lord and Lady Hesseltine and also to Darren, for their involvement in this original quest and in making this such a very worthwhile visit.

After lunch at a local hostelry, some of us then journeyed to Upton House, near Banbury. This is a National Trust preserve and once was the home of Viscount Bearsted, who was the Chairman of Shell for many years. In the house, a fine collection of the advertisements, posters, concerning the Shell County Guides was on display. The garden was a further challenge, with a deal to see including the steep terraced gardens, the kitchen garden and also housed here is the National Collection of Asters. Apart from a local shower which occurred en route between the two venues, this proved to be a very fine day and worthwhile visit.

REPORT OF THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY 6TH JULY 2004

by Jill Cowley

"No cameras. No 'phones. Hats will be worn." The instructions with the invitation were quite specific. The morning of the Garden Party had arrived, our outfits had been chosen, but all was not well in the hat department despite quite a choice. The decision was made to hit Kingston's millinery departments in the time left to us before our departure. John Lewis and M&S turned up trumps: we then felt ready for our part in a major social event of Summer 2004.

Clutching our most recent purchases to our persons, we self-consciously boarded the 65 bus, followed by the District Line to St. James, feeling that other passengers were silently quizzing us as to why we were looking overdressed for the usual daily routine.

Sandy Atkins and I had made arrangements to meet Roy Jones and Tom Risley by the, as it turned out, non-existent bandstand in St. James Park. We all duly made our way up the Mall towards Buckingham Palace, gradually not feeling the only people rather overdressed as the numbers making their way in the same direction swelled.

The old Walled Garden has been noticeably updated and given a modern and contemporary outlook. The design of this enclosed area provides a very worthwhile result. Statuary in various styles was also evident here.

Certainly a touch of history is apparent, not only with the Heselenge but with the presence of some medieval fish ponds, possibly an item for investigation when the development of the gardens allow.

This was a fascinating visit, just to see how one person's ideas and resources combine in the resuscitation of a long established, but once neglected garden. Heligan is now being restored to what once was there, but here a very different challenge is being undertaken: to create a very contemporary garden, with traditional materials, in the confines of the old garden. Compliments are certainly due to Lord and Lady Hesseltine and also to Darren, for their involvement in this original quest and in making this such a very worthwhile visit.

After lunch at a local hostelry, some of us then journeyed to Upton House, near Banbury. This is a National Trust preserve and once was the home of Viscount Bearsted, who was the Chairman of Shell for many years. In the house, a fine collection of the advertisements, posters, concerning the Shell County Guides was on display. The garden was a further challenge, with a deal to see including the steep terraced gardens, the kitchen garden and also housed here is the National Collection of Asters. Apart from a local shower which occurred en route between the two venues, this proved to be a very fine day and worthwhile visit.

REPORT OF THE BUCKINGHAM PALACE GARDEN PARTY 6TH JULY 2004

by Jill Cowley

"No cameras. No 'phones. Hats will be worn." The instructions with the invitation were quite specific. The morning of the Garden Party had arrived, our outfits had been chosen, but all was not well in the hat department despite quite a choice. The decision was made to hit Kingston's millinery departments in the time left to us before our departure. John Lewis and M&S turned up trumps: we then felt ready for our part in a major social event of Summer 2004.

Clutching our most recent purchases to our persons, we self-consciously boarded the 65 bus, followed by the District Line to St. James, feeling that other passengers were silently quizzing us as to why we were looking overdressed for the usual daily routine.

Sandy Atkins and I had made arrangements to meet Roy Jones and Tom Risley by the, as it turned out, non-existent bandstand in St. James Park. We all duly made our way up the Mall towards Buckingham Palace, gradually not feeling the only people rather overdressed as the numbers making their way in the same direction swelled.

A rather extraordinary sight then became apparent: a long queue of guests in their finery from the Palace Gates towards Hyde Park Corner became a vantage point from which to examine the "catwalk" of people making their way towards the end of the queue. The latest, and otherwise, outfits and hats were appraised as the newcomers arrived. We spotted Kewite Sue Holmes and her husband Dennis and secreted them into our place in the queue. Eventually it was our turn to show our passports to the eagle-eyed police at the Gates and we were, at last, into the forecourt of the Palace grounds. We made an entrance into the gilded Marble Hall and then through the Bowe Room and onto the Terrace above the vast lawns of the Gardens. These gardens had been planned by William Aiton in 1825 at the instigation of George IV.

We were early enough to have time to wander down the lawns enjoying the summer sunshine and soaking up the atmosphere. We circumnavigated the extensive lake area which brought us back to the first of two bandstands where bands were playing medleys of 'Songs from the Shows.' At 3:45 the Yeomen of the Guard appeared on the Terrace and proceeded down the steps. Their job was to be a rather colourful form of crowd control. At 4 o'clock the Royal Family consisting of the Queen, Prince Philip, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew, Princess Alexandra, and Prince and Princess Michael of Kent appeared on the West Terrace. The National Anthem was played followed by lanes of people forming quickly on the lawns where the Royal Family would meet their guests.

We had been requested by our Patron, Princess Alexandra, to meet her near the bandstand at the Terrace end of the lawns. Arrangements were made between the four of us to meet at 4 o'clock by the bandstand. In the *mêlée*, one of our number became separated from the others. Our instructions were to present ourselves to one of the Gentlemen at Arms who were acting as ushers; our man would be wearing a yellow **carnation**. It turned out that there were two gentlemen with yellow **carinations** in their buttonholes, but we managed to find one who had our names on his list, although he mistook us for an Embroider's Guild at first. We found ourselves being one of many small groups which were to be presented to Princess Alexandra.

Our turn eventually came after a last minute appearance by the fourth member of our group. The Princess was looking very beautiful in an eau de nil ensemble and she immediately put us at our ease. We discussed some Kew Guild activities, she amusingly recalled the dinosaur whose tail was directed towards the top table at the Centenary Dinner in 1992, held at the Natural History Museum. Sandy was astonished that the Princess introduced the subject of her research work on the Brazilian genus *Stachytarpheta* (**Verbenaceae**).

After our meeting with our Patron, we were definitely ready for the tea tent, it being a beautifully sunny, warm day, we were in need of refreshment. Queues were formed and everyone was able to help themselves to an inexhaustible supply of tea and plates of sandwiches, bridge rolls, cakes and strawberry tarts.

At about five o'clock the Queen made her way to the Royalty tent where she entertained people such as Bishops and Service chiefs. This tent and the one

servicing the Corps Diplomatiques were cordoned off at a distance from the thousands of other guests who, if they were lucky enough to find a seat, could enjoy their tea and ‘people watch’ at the same time.

The forming of the Yeomen of the Guard again signalled a coming to an end of the proceedings as far as the Royal Family were concerned. On the Queen’s way back to the Palace she met some guests in wheelchairs and then her duties were over.

We had been given strict instructions to have a photo taken for the *Journal*. This was only possible of our way out of the Palace, where we spotted an official photographer and joined yet another queue to have the photo taken. At last we reached the coveted place by the Palace Gates where we would be ‘shot’, only to have a very young-looking policeman on a horse declare that the photographer would have to move on as he was obstructing the flow of people coming from the Palace. Having taken all this time to get to our position, we refused to budge, knowing we would lose our place if moved. Luckily the policeman was lenient and the photographer took one last snap of us four before being moved on. The result can be seen here.



From left to right: Tom Risley, Sandy Atkins, Roy Jones, and Jill Cowley.

Roy, Tom, Sandy and I would like to thank our Patron, Princess Alexandra, and the Kew Guild Committee for giving us the opportunity of a lifetime with our invitation to the Garden Party. We had a most enjoyable time.

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT 2004

by Allan Hart, Chairman

The Award Scheme Sub-Committee for 2004 comprised: Ian Leese (Acting Secretary), Jennifer Alsop (Hon. Treasurer), Susyn Andrews, David Barnes, Emma Fox, Stewart Henchie, Mark Pitman, Katie Steele, with Irina Noack and Tracey Stickler as student representatives.

Emma and Katie are available to offer advice on the preparation of applications.

The Committee is very grateful to Susyn, who has been an advisor for several years and congratulates her (and Tim Upson) on the publication of the wonderful monograph on the *Lavandula* family. We are also grateful to Emma for taking time off from her role as television super star in the 'Year at Kew' series!

Stewart now reports to the Committee on the eligibility of all applicants who must have been Guild members for at least twelve months.

This year a total of £5,780 was available for awards – an improvement on last year's figure of £4,970. Applications were slightly down – to 13, of which 12 were successful, one later withdrawing, having secured financing from another source. Three of our more mature members, Jane Allen, Tony Hall and Martin Sands, all qualified for awards. We hope that we will receive more requests from this section of the membership.

AWARDS 2004:

Jane Allen	Study tour Mediterranean flora (Redman)	£500
Andrea Brunsendorf	Propagation techniques – Botswana (Redman)	£400
	(Arnold)	£200
Christine Buchman	<i>Solanum</i> species as a food crop – Kenya (Redman)	£100
	(General)	£350
Lucy Cole	Study – threatened plants – Madagascar (Redman)	£100
Anthony Hall	Study – Mediterranean plants – Spain/Gibraltar (Redman)	£450
Fumiko Ishizuma	Support of M.Sc. – Reading (General)	£500
Heli Markkola	International Congress on Ethnobiology – University of Kent (General)	£230
Richard Morton	Study of <i>Phyllostachys</i> spp. – Nanjing, China (Dallimore)	£600
Martin Sands	International Flora Malesiana Symposium, Philippines (Philip & Granville Trust)	£500
Tracey Stickler	Study of <i>Nepenthes</i> spp. – Borneo/Malaysia (General)	£500
TOTAL AWARDED:		<u>£4,430</u>

KEW GUILD AWARD SCHEME REPORT 2004

by Allan Hart, Chairman

The Award Scheme Sub-Committee for 2004 comprised: Ian Leese (Acting Secretary), Jennifer Alsop (Hon. Treasurer), Susyn Andrews, David Barnes, Emma Fox, Stewart Henchie, Mark Pitman, Katie Steele, with Irina Noack and Tracey Stickler as student representatives.

Emma and Katie are available to offer advice on the preparation of applications.

The Committee is very grateful to Susyn, who has been an advisor for several years and congratulates her (and Tim Upson) on the publication of the wonderful monograph on the *Lavandula* family. We are also grateful to Emma for taking time off from her role as television super star in the 'Year at Kew' series!

Stewart now reports to the Committee on the eligibility of all applicants who must have been Guild members for at least twelve months.

This year a total of £5,780 was available for awards – an improvement on last year's figure of £4,970. Applications were slightly down – to 13, of which 12 were successful, one later withdrawing, having secured financing from another source. Three of our more mature members, Jane Allen, Tony Hall and Martin Sands, all qualified for awards. We hope that we will receive more requests from this section of the membership.

AWARDS 2004:

Jane Allen	Study tour Mediterranean flora (Redman)	£500
Andrea Brunsendorf	Propagation techniques – Botswana (Redman)	£400
	(Arnold)	£200
Christine Buchman	<i>Solanum</i> species as a food crop – Kenya (Redman)	£100
	(General)	£350
Lucy Cole	Study – threatened plants – Madagascar (Redman)	£100
Anthony Hall	Study – Mediterranean plants – Spain/Gibraltar (Redman)	£450
Fumiko Ishizuma	Support of M.Sc. – Reading (General)	£500
Heli Markkola	International Congress on Ethnobiology – University of Kent (General)	£230
Richard Morton	Study of <i>Phyllostachys</i> spp. – Nanjing, China (Dallimore)	£600
Martin Sands	International Flora Malesiana Symposium, Philippines (Philip & Granville Trust)	£500
Tracey Stickler	Study of <i>Nepenthes</i> spp. – Borneo/Malaysia (General)	£500
TOTAL AWARDED:		<u>£4,430</u>

The second tranche of the available funds was approved at the meeting held on 8 July 2004, when a grant was awarded to:

Heli Markkola	Conservation of Sandalwood groves – India	
	(Dallimore)	£300
	(Tumer)	£280
	(General)	£ 87
TOTAL AWARDED:		£667

The remaining £683 will be included in the 2005 General Fund.

TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED IN 2004 = **£5,097.**

It has been a privilege to be part of the dedicated and enthusiastic team, which manages the Award Scheme so professionally on behalf of the Kew Guild.

THE FLORAL DIVERSITY OF OAXACA SOUTHERN MEXICO

by Jane Allen

I developed a passion for **cycads** whilst working at Kew, and this prompted a desire to observe and study them in their natural habitats around the world. In 2001 I spent two weeks visiting localities in Mexico and was amazed and fascinated by the incredible diversity of flora that occurs in their natural habitat. I longed to return and take more time to make a more general study of the flora. To make this possible I formed a small group of like minded horticulturists, through my contacts here at the Eden Project and an advert placed in *PlantNet* so we could share the cost of a guide, vehicle hire, fuel and accommodation, for a trip in 2004. Two Kew graduates, Adrian Lovatt and Yoke van der Meer and another ex-staff member Linda Lever were among the six participants.

We chose the southern state of Oaxaca as it is botanically the richest in the country, with over 8,000 species described and an estimated 12-15,000 in existence. Our visit was planned to coincide with the end of the wet season (late October) as many of the drier habitats are lush and green and it's also the best time to observe flowering plants. Our guide Jeff Chemnick from California, is associated with the non-government organisation, SERBO (Sociedad para del Estudio de los Recursos Bioticos de Oaxaca). Based in the city of Oaxaca, they work on studying the biodiversity of the state. Together they had planned our route and itinerary to make the best use of our time and take us to the best botanical hotspots. They certainly succeeded! Despite the later than usual seasonal rain, we had a spectacular show of flowering plants, including many *Salvia* and *Dahlia* species which were high on the group's wish list.

The landscape is hugely varied. Close to the city of Oaxaca the tropical deciduous forest is dominated by the columnar **cacti** *Neobuxbaumia*. Areas here had been cleared to cultivate *Agave angustifolia* for Mezcal production, which is locally

The second tranche of the available funds was approved at the meeting held on 8 July 2004, when a grant was awarded to:

Heli Markkola	Conservation of Sandalwood groves – India	
	(Dallimore)	£300
	(Tumer)	£280
	(General)	£ 87
TOTAL AWARDED:		<u>£667</u>

The remaining £683 will be included in the 2005 General Fund.

TOTAL FUNDS ALLOCATED IN 2004 = £5,097.

It has been a privilege to be part of the dedicated and enthusiastic team, which manages the Award Scheme so professionally on behalf of the Kew Guild.

THE FLORAL DIVERSITY OF OAXACA SOUTHERN MEXICO

by Jane Allen

I developed a passion for **cycads** whilst working at Kew, and this prompted a desire to observe and study them in their natural habitats around the world. In 2001 I spent two weeks visiting localities in Mexico and was amazed and fascinated by the incredible diversity of flora that occurs in their natural habitat. I longed to return and take more time to make a more general study of the flora. To make this possible I formed a small group of like minded horticulturists, through my contacts here at the Eden Project and an advert placed in *PlantNet* so we could share the cost of a guide, vehicle hire, fuel and accommodation, for a trip in 2004. Two Kew graduates, Adrian Lovatt and Yoke van der Meer and another ex-staff member Linda Lever were among the six participants.

We chose the southern state of Oaxaca as it is botanically the richest in the country, with over 8,000 species described and an estimated 12-15,000 in existence. Our visit was planned to coincide with the end of the wet season (late October) as many of the drier habitats are lush and green and it's also the best time to observe flowering plants. Our guide Jeff Chemnick from California, is associated with the non-government organisation, SERBO (Sociedad para del Estudio de los Recursos Bioticos de Oaxaca). Based in the city of Oaxaca, they work on studying the biodiversity of the state. Together they had planned our route and itinerary to make the best use of our time and take us to the best botanical hotspots. They certainly succeeded! Despite the later than usual seasonal rain, we had a spectacular show of flowering plants, including many *Salvia* and *Dahlia* species which were high on the group's wish list.

The landscape is hugely varied. Close to the city of Oaxaca the tropical deciduous forest is dominated by the columnar **cacti** *Neobuxbaumia*. Areas here had been cleared to cultivate *Agave angustifolia* for Mezcal production, which is locally

more popular than Tequila. A must see, not far from the city is the ancient Montezuma cypress, known as El Tule, an immense specimen of *Taxodium mucronatum* which is estimated to be 2-4,000 years old and has a girth of more than 36 metres. At the Pacific coast we trekked through coastal tropical thorn forest, which is extremely hazardous and involves scrambling over boulders on cliff edges whilst trying to avoid being spiked by the abundance of *Opuntia* species which occur there! At higher altitudes up in the Sierra Madre Mountains, the cloud forest is much cooler and very atmospheric. Here we observed *Chamaedorea* palms, abundant *Cyathea*, *Blechnum* ferns, many bromeliads, including *Guzmania* and *Tillandsia* species. The lowland tropical forest is often degraded, with land cleared for the cultivation of coffee, corn and beans. Another spectacular habitat is the high desert with massive tree size specimens of the cactus *Pachycereus weberi*, *Beaucarnea* with huge swollen trunks, the rare *Fouquieria purpusii* and giant barrel cactus, *Echinocactus platyacanthus* as tall as me!

I have gained an appreciation of the diverse flora of southern Mexico and hope to continue my association with this flora either in the country itself or through the planned future construction of the Dry Tropics Biome at the Eden Project. I would like to thank the Kew Guild for their contribution to this successful trip.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES: BOTSWANA

by Andrea Brunsendorf

With the size of France, landlocked Botswana extends over 1100 km from the north to the south and 960 km from the east to the west in southern Africa. Most of Botswana lies at an average elevation of 1000m. Much of the country consists of a vast and nearly level sand-filled basin characterized by scrub-covered savannas. A semi-arid expanse of wind-blown sand deposits, long sandy valleys and ridges stabilised by scrubby trees and bushes, the Kalahari, comprises 85% of Botswana, including the central and south-western region.

Gathering wild plant species is still a very important livelihood activity in the Kalahari environment, as there is an extremely diverse flora of edible plants, with over 400 plant species recorded as being useful to man. They offer cash income through direct sale and via making raw materials into new and diverse natural products for the national and international market. However, the sustainability of wild plant species is threatened by over-collecting and erosion caused by increased numbers of livestock. A close connection exists between rural communities and natural resources. The viability and sustainability of rural livelihoods depends upon the health of their respective natural environments, which in turn depends on both physical factors and management regimes.

The travel scholarship to Botswana focused on a propagation study in conjunction with the Millennium Seed Bank Project Botswana (MSBP Botswana), which was implemented by the Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic

more popular than Tequila. A must see, not far from the city is the ancient Montezuma cypress, known as El Tule, an immense specimen of *Taxodium mucronatum* which is estimated to be 2-4,000 years old and has a girth of more than 36 metres. At the Pacific coast we trekked through coastal tropical thorn forest, which is extremely hazardous and involves scrambling over boulders on cliff edges whilst trying to avoid being spiked by the abundance of *Opuntia* species which occur there! At higher altitudes up in the Sierra Madre Mountains, the cloud forest is much cooler and very atmospheric. Here we observed *Chamaedorea* palms, abundant *Cyathea*, *Blechnum* ferns, many bromeliads, including *Guzmania* and *Tillandsia* species. The lowland tropical forest is often degraded, with land cleared for the cultivation of coffee, corn and beans. Another spectacular habitat is the high desert with massive tree size specimens of the cactus *Pachycereus weberi*, *Beaucarnea* with huge swollen trunks, the rare *Fouquieria purpusii* and giant barrel cactus, *Echinocactus platyacanthus* as tall as me!

I have gained an appreciation of the diverse flora of southern Mexico and hope to continue my association with this flora either in the country itself or through the planned future construction of the Dry Tropics Biome at the Eden Project. I would like to thank the Kew Guild for their contribution to this successful trip.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUES: BOTSWANA

by Andrea Brunsendorf

With the size of France, landlocked Botswana extends over 1100 km from the north to the south and 960 km from the east to the west in southern Africa. Most of Botswana lies at an average elevation of 1000m. Much of the country consists of a vast and nearly level sand-filled basin characterized by scrub-covered savannas. A semi-arid expanse of wind-blown sand deposits, long sandy valleys and ridges stabilised by scrubby trees and bushes, the Kalahari, comprises 85% of Botswana, including the central and south-western region.

Gathering wild plant species is still a very important livelihood activity in the Kalahari environment, as there is an extremely diverse flora of edible plants, with over 400 plant species recorded as being useful to man. They offer cash income through direct sale and via making raw materials into new and diverse natural products for the national and international market. However, the sustainability of wild plant species is threatened by over-collecting and erosion caused by increased numbers of livestock. A close connection exists between rural communities and natural resources. The viability and sustainability of rural livelihoods depends upon the health of their respective natural environments, which in turn depends on both physical factors and management regimes.

The travel scholarship to Botswana focused on a propagation study in conjunction with the Millennium Seed Bank Project Botswana (MSBP Botswana), which was implemented by the Seed Conservation Department at the Royal Botanic

Gardens, Kew (RBG, KEW) in September 2003. The MSBP Botswana is in partnership with non-governmental (NGOs) and governmental organisations in Botswana and targets and collects seeds of up to 400 threatened and useful species. The propagation study was based at the Veld Products Research & Development (VPR&D) nursery and focused on finding generative propagation methods to successfully regenerate eight utilitarian plant species, important to the rural communities of Botswana. VPR&D is responsible for developing propagation protocols of 40 utilitarian plant species. The propagation protocols will be the first step to regenerate over 4,000 plants of the 40 target species.

The experiment trialled various pre-germination techniques on eight utilitarian plants, *Bauhinia petersiana*, *Berchemia discolor*, *Citrullus lanatus*, *Corchorus tridens*, *Cucumis africanus*, *Flacourtia indica*, *Harpagophytum procumbens* and *Senna italica*, which are important to the rural livelihoods in Botswana. The generative propagation methods concentrated on various seed scarification methods, seed priming and the use of gibberellic acid.

The results of the trial show that the seeds of the various species need some kind of pre-germination treatment since the germination of the control was low. The germination of *Flacourtia indica* failed completely, more research needs to go into pre-germination techniques. The results for *Harpagophytum procumbens* should be considered as a success, even if the germination rate did not reach 70%. Since, no references to a successful regeneration or pre-germination technique for this species could not be found in the literature, internet and through personal correspondence with other organizations. Further trials should be done using a higher gibberellic acid concentration, which could influence the germination rate more positively.

However, the trial should be repeated for all species. More research needs to go into pre-germination techniques of the target species, to support another experiment. Horticultural institutes and NGO's ought be questioned and included in such research, which would also improve the relations between the various organisations. Further propagation trials should include the soil, where the target species originate. This could prove unique mycorrhizal fungi relation associated with the germination of the seed. Since most of the species did not germinate at the ambient temperature higher germination temperatures are suggested. Seeds may germinate better at the end of spring going into the early summer, since the night temperature are not below 12°C. However, this germination experiment was one of the first projects of its kind in Botswana.

Besides the propagation study, I had the opportunity to join a short VPR&D seed-collecting trip in association with the National Plant Genetic Resource Centre (NPGRC) to the northeast of Botswana. The purpose of the seed-collection trip was to collect seeds of the endangered tree *Pterocarpus angolensis* and various targeted utilitarian plants. As well as meeting and visiting the facilities of the other three MSBP Botswana partners, such as the National Herbarium and Botanic Garden.

Finally, the travel scholarship to Botswana was a great success and experience!

Working with staff of VPR&D was great experience since I shared with them the daily challenges and problems of their work as well as getting an inside into the MSBP Botswana. I had the opportunity to familiarise myself with Botswana's dryland ecosystem and its flora on a seed collecting trip to the north-eastern part of Botswana. The scholarship influenced positively my dissertation for the Kew Diploma, since I was able to make beneficial contacts as my dissertation investigates dryland conservation, including a case study of the Kalahari.

GREEN WASTE UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

by Fumiko Ishizuna

For my travel scholarship I visited the east side of United States of America from the end of April for three weeks to learn and see green waste utilization and management. My trip consisted of three parts.

1. Maine Compost School at University of Main

Attending the compost school provided me with knowledge and scientific evidence that composting can be successful on most sites. The composting school provided me with basic and technical knowledge, which was very useful for the rest of the trip. The five-days course was an ideal way to start off my trip. Each day was packed full of new information and provided me with the latest and most advanced composting techniques used in the industry. The course consisted of lectures, practical sessions and field trips. Also this course gave me the opportunity to get used to the terminology of composting. I also had a great opportunity to see first hand how these composting techniques were achieved on various different scales.

2. 2002 International Symposium on 'Composting and Compost Utilisation' in the Ohio State

The symposium provided me great opportunity to meet and speak to different people with different interest in waste management, it was a great experience listening to different views and ideas about composting. There were more than 115 oral presentations and over 80 poster discussions from 43 countries.

3. Visiting botanical gardens and parks

I have visited seven different botanical gardens and parks. For example New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Longwood Garden. Most of them are using the same method, which is windrow because the feedstock is green waste from the garden. The windrow is very simple and can be done easily on a medium scale operation, with relatively low expenses and few operators. Some of the gardens, which I visited, were relatively small and located in the city for example, Chicago District Park in Chicago. This garden did not have enough space to set up the compost yard also the odour often will be a problem in the surrounding houses.

Finally, the travel scholarship to Botswana was a great success and experience!

Working with staff of VPR&D was great experience since I shared with them the daily challenges and problems of their work as well as getting an inside into the MSBP Botswana. I had the opportunity to familiarise myself with Botswana's dryland ecosystem and its flora on a seed collecting trip to the north-eastern part of Botswana. The scholarship influenced positively my dissertation for the Kew Diploma, since I was able to make beneficial contacts as my dissertation investigates dryland conservation, including a case study of the Kalahari.

GREEN WASTE UTILIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

by Fumiko Ishizuna

For my travel scholarship I visited the east side of United States of America from the end of April for three weeks to learn and see green waste utilization and management. My trip consisted of three parts.

1. Maine Compost School at University of Main

Attending the compost school provided me with knowledge and scientific evidence that composting can be successful on most sites. The composting school provided me with basic and technical knowledge, which was very useful for the rest of the trip. The five-days course was an ideal way to start off my trip. Each day was packed full of new information and provided me with the latest and most advanced composting techniques used in the industry. The course consisted of lectures, practical sessions and field trips. Also this course gave me the opportunity to get used to the terminology of composting. I also had a great opportunity to see first hand how these composting techniques were achieved on various different scales.

2. 2002 International Symposium on 'Composting and Compost Utilisation' in the Ohio State

The symposium provided me great opportunity to meet and speak to different people with different interest in waste management, it was a great experience listening to different views and ideas about composting. There were more than 115 oral presentations and over 80 poster discussions from 43 countries.

3. Visiting botanical gardens and parks

I have visited seven different botanical gardens and parks. For example New York Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Longwood Garden. Most of them are using the same method, which is windrow because the feedstock is green waste from the garden. The windrow is very simple and can be done easily on a medium scale operation, with relatively low expenses and few operators. Some of the gardens, which I visited, were relatively small and located in the city for example, Chicago District Park in Chicago. This garden did not have enough space to set up the compost yard also the odour often will be a problem in the surrounding houses.

I feel that the green waste management in the garden is such an important issue both environmentally and financially. I found most of the gardens, which have some space for the composting yard doing composting in the garden. The size of composting facility is medium compared to the commercial industry. If they use the right method and machinery costs can be kept to a minimum when compared to the cost of removing the materials and dumping it in landfill. For the future, parks in the city where they do not have much space for the composting yard should have a compact composting yard.

I believe that the education of people regarding green waste and kitchen waste will be a major issue within the next few years and feel that the botanic gardens and local authorities should be the leaders of this issue. Educating the visitors of ways of recycling their waste without taking up valuable landfill space.

BEGONIAS AND A BLAZER IN THE PHILIPPINES

by Martin J.S.Sands

An account of field visits and participation in the Sixth International Flora Malesiana Symposium in the Philippines

More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines, a fascinating country lying north of the equator and east of the South China Sea. Recalling **Begonia** collecting adventures there in 1976, I was delighted to receive a generous Guild Award towards another visit in September, 2004. Sandwiched between field-trips, the triennial Flora Malesiana Symposium was an international meeting during which I presented a paper about **begonias** and the botanist, Merrill.



Observing rare cockatoos from the deck of a 'Banca'.

First, on 14th September, I joined the pre-symposium visit to Palawan, island home to some of the last remaining Philippine forest, but before we set out, our 'Symposium' clothes were forwarded to the University at Los Banos. Unwisely, I chose to keep my blazer with me which, in the field, proved quite useless and hung all week in dusty huts!

From Puerto Princesa, Palawan's capital, we travelled in a colourful 'jeepney', a 'tin can-like' vehicle common throughout the Philippines and, on the first evening, sailed to Rasa Island, where the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo roosts on **mangrove** trees. After good sightings

I feel that the green waste management in the garden is such an important issue both environmentally and financially. I found most of the gardens, which have some space for the composting yard doing composting in the garden. The size of composting facility is medium compared to the commercial industry. If they use the right method and machinery costs can be kept to a minimum when compared to the cost of removing the materials and dumping it in landfill. For the future, parks in the city where they do not have much space for the composting yard should have a compact composting yard.

I believe that the education of people regarding green waste and kitchen waste will be a major issue within the next few years and feel that the botanic gardens and local authorities should be the leaders of this issue. Educating the visitors of ways of recycling their waste without taking up valuable landfill space.

BEGONIAS AND A BLAZER IN THE PHILIPPINES

by Martin J.S.Sands

An account of field visits and participation in the Sixth International Flora Malesiana Symposium in the Philippines

More than 7,000 islands make up the Philippines, a fascinating country lying north of the equator and east of the South China Sea. Recalling **Begonia** collecting adventures there in 1976, I was delighted to receive a generous Guild Award towards another visit in September, 2004. Sandwiched between field-trips, the triennial Flora Malesiana Symposium was an international meeting during which I presented a paper about **begonias** and the botanist, Merrill.

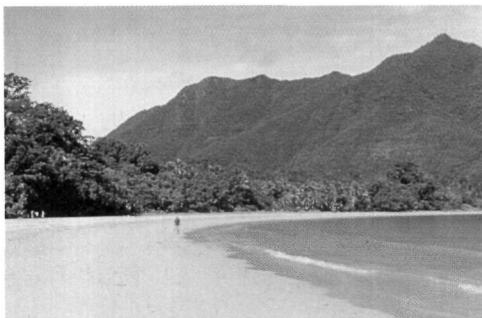


Observing rare cockatoos from the deck of a 'Banca'.

First, on 14th September, I joined the pre-symposium visit to Palawan, island home to some of the last remaining Philippine forest, but before we set out, our 'Symposium' clothes were forwarded to the University at Los Banos. Unwisely, I chose to keep my blazer with me which, in the field, proved quite useless and hung all week in dusty huts!

From Puerto Princesa, Palawan's capital, we travelled in a colourful 'jeepney', a 'tin can-like' vehicle common throughout the Philippines and, on the first evening, sailed to Rasa Island, where the critically endangered Philippine Cockatoo roosts on **mangrove** trees. After good sightings

and a glorious sunset we returned to our palm-fringed beach and, next morning, waded across the Talakaigan river into Dipterocarp forest, discovering an unusual red-and-white striped **ginger**, a beautiful white-flowered *Habenaria* sp. and, on wet rocks, *Begonia woodii*. Then, in torrential rain, we just managed to re-cross the swollen waist-deep river. Moving to stilted huts by a beach on the north coast, we studied a distinctive ultramafic flora on Mt. Bloomfield and later, on limestone, I found *Begonia suborbiculata*. Another attractive species was growing on cliffs at the entrance to a long underground river, which now has world heritage status. Sadly, those idyllic days on Palawan came to an end all too quickly and, with an unused scruffy blazer, we returned to Luzon.



Mount Bloomfield from St. Paul's Bay.



Begonia suborbiculata.

The mid-symposium field-trip was to Mt. Makiling, an ancient volcano and one of the Philippines' richest botanical sites, conveniently situated next to the university campus. *Begonia aequata*, flowering profusely in the canopy, was found on the mossy-forested summit at 1,090m, and our descent through montane forest, featured a multicoloured leech, a green pit viper and a boiling mud-spring.

The Symposium week was deemed a great success, but the blazer was never required and was left behind when a few of us then travelled to northern Luzon, often on dangerous mountain roads frequently subject to landslides. Though so much of Luzon is now devoid of forest, we enjoyed spectacular scenery and on the third day reached 4,700m, where vegetable terraces give way to *Pinus kesiya* forest. We stayed in Baguio, Bontoc and Banawe and found

a rare stretch of montane forest on Mt. Polis, one of several classic Philippine collecting sites. Highlights of this adventure were seeing the endangered **Benguet Lily** in flower, *Lilium philippinense*, the famous ancient walled rice terraces of the



Ancient walled rice terraces, Mountain Province, Luzon.



The Benguet Lily, *Lilium philippinense*.

Ifugao people – and of course several more attractive **begonias**. Returning to the capital on 1st October, time was then spent in the National Herbarium and I visited the ‘Intramuros’, the old walled city of Manila.

To my surprise, finally wearing my tired blazer to travel home, I was upgraded to Business Class and, in Abu Dhabi, enjoyed a long wait in executive lounge luxury, simply because, as the official said, ‘I was well dressed’. It was worth having a blazer in the Philippines after all!

2004: A REPORT ON KEW'S YEAR

by David Hardman

The traditional start to the gardening year at Kew begins with its seasonal festivals which saw the 10th Orchid Festival open on February 14th. Over 250,000 **orchids** decorated the Princess of Wales Conservatory changing it into a tropical paradise. A giant swan display decorated with hundreds of white *Phalaenopsis* formed the centrepiece based on Jane Asselyn's painting ‘The Threatened Swan’. The festival, sponsored by Singapore Airlines, ran until March 14th. Our relationship with the Singapore Botanic Garden continued and is based on a historical link with the two organisations having signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2000 which commits us into the pursuit of joint initiatives in training, research and to promote exchanges of information and joint field work.

Bulb extravaganza

The ‘Spring into Life’ festival from March 20th to May 9th focused around the 2.5 million bulbs planted over recent years which included the **crocus** carpet, golden **daffodils**, blue **chinodoxas**, **fritillaries** and **gladioli** and led onto the blossoms of



Ancient walled rice terraces, Mountain Province, Luzon.



The Benguet Lily, *Lilium philippinense*.

Ifugao people – and of course several more attractive **begonias**. Returning to the capital on 1st October, time was then spent in the National Herbarium and I visited the ‘Intramuros’, the old walled city of Manila.

To my surprise, finally wearing my tired blazer to travel home, I was upgraded to Business Class and, in Abu Dhabi, enjoyed a long wait in executive lounge luxury, simply

because, as the official said, ‘I was well dressed’. It was worth having a blazer in the Philippines after all!

2004: A REPORT ON KEW'S YEAR

by David Hardman

The traditional start to the gardening year at Kew begins with its seasonal festivals which saw the 10th Orchid Festival open on February 14th. Over 250,000 **orchids** decorated the Princess of Wales Conservatory changing it into a tropical paradise. A giant swan display decorated with hundreds of white *Phalaenopsis* formed the centrepiece based on Jane Asselyn's painting ‘The Threatened Swan’. The festival, sponsored by Singapore Airlines, ran until March 14th. Our relationship with the Singapore Botanic Garden continued and is based on a historical link with the two organisations having signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2000 which commits us into the pursuit of joint initiatives in training, research and to promote exchanges of information and joint field work.

Bulb extravaganza

The ‘Spring into Life’ festival from March 20th to May 9th focused around the 2.5 million bulbs planted over recent years which included the **crocus** carpet, golden **daffodils**, blue **chinodoxas**, **fritillaries** and **gladioli** and led onto the blossoms of

magnolias and **cherries** culminating in the woodland carpet of **bluebells**. Over the May Day Bank holiday weekend the area around Queen Charlotte's cottage and the conservation area which are not normally open to the public were available for 'Woodland Wonders' a festival themed on conservation activities. Visitors could enjoy demonstrations and activities from craftspeople and conservation groups being able to learn about traditional woodland management skills. Traditional tools, spinning, pole lathe turning and chain-saw sculptures helped to show the diversity of these skills.

Hops and Barley

How times have changed! When I was a student the only beer available around was on Kew Green where it could be found at the Rose and Crown, Coach and Horses and the Greyhound, but this year there was a new tippie on the block. 'Kew Brew' became Kew's very own beer when we combined forces with Young's brewery to produce this new line produced from **hops** grown in the Brewing Display in the Princess of Wales Conservatory last year. It is available in the Coach and Horses and for home consumption across a wide range of Waitrose stores. It can also be purchased in the gardens' restaurants where incidentally a new effort to promote more environmentally sustainable packaging saw 'eco-friendly' wrappers which are bio-degradable introduced to replace the plastic sandwich coverings that were previously used.

Plants of interest

Interesting flowerings observed in the Princess of Wales Conservatory included ***Hylocereus costaricensis*** a rare night-flowering **cactus** from Central America with its intricately detailed custard yellow flowers. A **bromeliad** from South America ***Bromelia balansae*** has an inflorescence of violet flowers followed by fruit which when ripe smelt of pineapples, the inner leaves turn bright red to attract pollinators. From Rodriguez Island a rare monotypic species in **Rubiaceae** is ***Scyphochlamys revoluta*** an interesting plant which has three different leaf shapes between its juvenile and adult foliage forms with the small white flowers borne in the leaf axils.

Changing Structures

The old glasshouse previously used for palms and cycad storage during earlier restoration projects has itself now been renovated into a new attraction, 'Climbers and Creepers'. To engage an interest in the plant sciences amongst young children interactive play techniques are used to gain their attention. Topics to be explored include pollination, carnivorous plants and the use of plant material by animals in the construction of nests. An area is set aside for growing plants and a simple introduction to plant identification.

Work constructing a new Alpine House commenced with the removal of the north end section of the Rock Garden. Designed by Wilkinson Eyre Architects, of Gateshead Millennium Bridge fame, the new glasshouse will provide a strongly identifiable structure of two back-to-back twin arches to present the alpine collections

to the public. It will be an elegant glass building with an unusual shape and geometry designed to encourage the complex environmental conditions so necessary for alpine plants to thrive. Below ground air will be cooled and re-circulated around the perimeter of the house and onto low level plants whilst warm air will be drawn up out of the building.

To comply with the introduction of the Disability Discrimination Act, which came into full effect on 1 October, improvements for access were suggested by the consultants asked to audit Kew's facilities. Most already meet the requirements but among their recommendations were projects already in the pipeline and included a ramp on the Water Lily House-end of the Palm House, showing the Marine display remotely, and making adjustments to the website.

VIPs visiting Kew

Elliot Morley M.P., DEFRA minister, presented and introduced the Plant Diversity Challenge at Kew this is the UK's first response to the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The report compiled by Joint Nature Committee, Plantlife International and RBG Kew it was launched at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Friday, June 4th was a special royal day when HRH Queen Elizabeth accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh visited Kew. The Royal party enjoyed meeting staff whilst visiting the Palm House, Water Lily House and the Nash Conservatory where Lord Selborne, Chairman of Trustees invited the Queen to unveil a plaque. The visit was also in recognition of all the tremendous efforts staff made in achieving our World Heritage Site status.

Staff news

A few days after her visit it was announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours List on June 12th that the Director was to receive a knighthood. He will assume the title Professor Sir Peter Crane F.R.S.

Tony Hall retired on 29 June after a long career at Kew; he was the Manager of the Alpine Unit since 1976. He is well known to many staff and students who will have benefited from his vast experience and wealth of knowledge that he was always prepared to share with interested colleagues. He will still be seen at Kew working in the Juno project.

Horticultural Volunteers Project

The pilot scheme for horticultural volunteers has proved a resounding success. The project supervised by Belinda Parry has seen some 60 volunteers. The increased work force has benefited everyone helping to improve the delivery of festivals and the public education programme whilst helping to support improvements in the collections.

Kew on TV

The BBC enquired whether a second series of 'A Year at Kew' could be filmed before the first series of 12 episodes was even broadcast on BBC2 on August 27th.

Viewers were able to enjoy a fascinating series with glimpses of the people and diversity of work they do as well as an insight into the plants, projects, landscapes and buildings that make up Kew. A book to accompany the series is available.

In autumn the major festival was called 'Fruit Fest' and explored the diversity of fruit and how we can enjoy them. The Pumpkin display comprising of over 2,500 squashes, gourds and pumpkins were on show in the Water Lily House in contrast to the autumn colours seen out in the gardens.

Other attractions included Shakespeare at Kew when '*Much Ado About Nothing*' and '*Twelfth Night*' were performed outdoors at the Kew Palace Marquee site where more than 1,500 guests attended the performances over several nights.

New national record announced

During the year the Royal Meteorological Society announced in their journal *Weather* that a temperature reading taken at Kew on August 10th 2003 was the hottest ever recorded in the UK. This new record was achieved during the previous year's heat wave and sharply contrasted with the introduction of a new attraction around Christmas, when we witnessed an ice rink erected on the lawn to the east of the Temperate House. Skating sessions of one hour were available from 10.00am to 10.00pm and proved a hit with staff and visitors alike. A more traditional aspect to the seasonal celebrations was a celebrity Christmas tree, which was unveiled and switched on by garden designer Diarmuid Gavin. The tree in White Peaks was dedicated to another celebrity and Kew Guild member, Alan Titchmarsh. Other features in the garden included a 120ft Ferris wheel, a laser light show across the pond to the Palm House, a Victorian carousel and, of course, Father Christmas who could be visited in Santa's Woodland Dell in White Peaks. So with all these new events we saw another successful year come to a close and look forward to another busy programme of events and new challenges.

2004: A REPORT ON WAKEHURST'S YEAR

by David Hardman

Record numbers of visitors and a new Visitor Centre with refurbishment to other buildings must be the storyline for 2004 as Wakehurst Place develops to meet visitor demand.

New Visitor Centre

The opening of the new £2 Million Visitor Centre on March 24th by Professor Howard Dalton, DEFRA's Chief Scientific Advisor, saw the culmination of much hard work by the builders and staff within Building and Maintenance, Enterprises and the Horticultural team who had earlier prepared a 'clear' site for them and then upon completion restored the landscape around the new building. The end walls of the building have been built using material from a consignment of **afromosia** (*Pericopsis elata*) from Zaire seized by HM Customs and Excise. The

Viewers were able to enjoy a fascinating series with glimpses of the people and diversity of work they do as well as an insight into the plants, projects, landscapes and buildings that make up Kew. A book to accompany the series is available.

In autumn the major festival was called 'Fruit Fest' and explored the diversity of fruit and how we can enjoy them. The Pumpkin display comprising of over 2,500 squashes, gourds and pumpkins were on show in the Water Lily House in contrast to the autumn colours seen out in the gardens.

Other attractions included Shakespeare at Kew when '*Much Ado About Nothing*' and '*Twelfth Night*' were performed outdoors at the Kew Palace Marquee site where more than 1,500 guests attended the performances over several nights.

New national record announced

During the year the Royal Meteorological Society announced in their journal *Weather* that a temperature reading taken at Kew on August 10th 2003 was the hottest ever recorded in the UK. This new record was achieved during the previous year's heat wave and sharply contrasted with the introduction of a new attraction around Christmas, when we witnessed an ice rink erected on the lawn to the east of the Temperate House. Skating sessions of one hour were available from 10.00am to 10.00pm and proved a hit with staff and visitors alike. A more traditional aspect to the seasonal celebrations was a celebrity Christmas tree, which was unveiled and switched on by garden designer Diarmuid Gavin. The tree in White Peaks was dedicated to another celebrity and Kew Guild member, Alan Titchmarsh. Other features in the garden included a 120ft Ferris wheel, a laser light show across the pond to the Palm House, a Victorian carousel and, of course, Father Christmas who could be visited in Santa's Woodland Dell in White Peaks. So with all these new events we saw another successful year come to a close and look forward to another busy programme of events and new challenges.

2004: A REPORT ON WAKEHURST'S YEAR

by David Hardman

Record numbers of visitors and a new Visitor Centre with refurbishment to other buildings must be the storyline for 2004 as Wakehurst Place develops to meet visitor demand.

New Visitor Centre

The opening of the new £2 Million Visitor Centre on March 24th by Professor Howard Dalton, DEFRA's Chief Scientific Advisor, saw the culmination of much hard work by the builders and staff within Building and Maintenance, Enterprises and the Horticultural team who had earlier prepared a 'clear' site for them and then upon completion restored the landscape around the new building. The end walls of the building have been built using material from a consignment of **afromosia** (*Pericopsis elata*) from Zaire seized by HM Customs and Excise. The

repositioning of the entrance through an old quarry site allowed work to proceed without affecting normal daily access for visitors. The new Visitor Centre at the North West corner of the car park includes an enlarged shop and plant sales area, a coffee shop, offices and toilets.



The new visitor centre from car park entrance showing the sculpture on the right. (Photograph C. D. Hardman)

new paths. The border along North Drive has been largely redeveloped following the realignment and construction of a new path to the restaurant.

New Newsletter

To coincide with the March 24th opening of the Visitor Centre, the Wakehurst Newsletter was launched. This is an innovation that aims at getting closer to the garden visitor to convey the work at Wakehurst



The new visitor centre from the garden. (Photograph C. D. Hardman)

Place in a dynamic and timely fashion by promoting the role RBG, Kew has played over the 40 years it has been at Wakehurst Place and into the future. The quarterly newsletter includes details of plants to see, areas of interest, conservation news and updates from the Millennium Seedbank Project (MSBP).

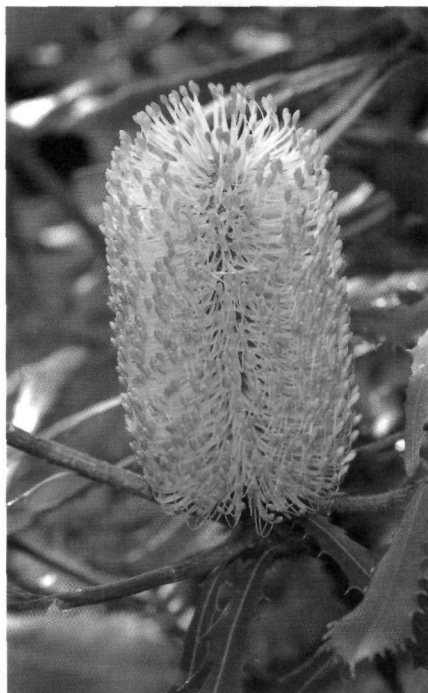
During spring, specially adapted nest boxes with hidden cameras linked to a control centre where computers monitored activity over several days of the intimate nesting habits of some of the shyest animals. These included dormice, great tits,

Entry to the garden is now along a new path that joins the old route that led down from the Ticket Office to the Millennium Seedbank. Three sculptures ('People', 'Plants' and 'Possibilities') have been created from timber extracted from the site before building commenced. These are located at the entrance and inside the building with the third piece 'Possibilities' at the junction of the old and

bats and blue tits the unexpected setting up home of pied wagtails amongst plants in the Visitor Centre plant sales area created a fantastic opportunity to monitor them and relay these 'live-action' pictures inside for visitors to watch on the large plasma screen whilst taking refreshment in the coffee shop.

Plants in focus

Twelve years after seed was brought back from Taiwan *Paulownia kawakami*, a very rare tree, flowered for the first time in the nursery. On the edge of extinction, fewer than 100 trees remain in the wild. Of the original collection 23 young trees were raised and surplus plants distributed to other botanic gardens. There are about another six specimens planted in Westwood Valley, but their locations are not as well protected as the specimen that has flowered in the nursery.



Banksia integrifolia ssp. *monticola* bush.
(Photograph C. D. Hardman)



Banksia integrifolia ssp. *monticola* flower.
(Photograph C. D. Hardman)

Another plant to capture visitor and media attention is *Banksia integrifolia* ssp. *monticola* a collection made by Andy Jackson and David Hardman from an expedition to Barrington Tops, New South Wales in 2000. With careful nurturing by staff this large shrub/small tree flowered in the Southern Hemisphere Garden during late summer through autumn displaying several light primrose inflorescences. Its

true hardiness is as yet uncertain since it has been cut back by frosts in previous years, although it has so far managed to recover.

Five years ago the Millennium Seed Bank received 2,000 seeds of **cabbage tree** plants *Dendroseris litoralis*, to be stored for future conservation projects, just a handful survive on Robinson Crusoe Island. *Dendroseris litoralis* is the rarest of 12 varieties of the genus which all live on Robinson Crusoe Island, 400 miles off Chile's Pacific coast, or its two smaller neighbours Alexander Selkirk Island and Santa Clara Island. It is said to have kept Alexander Selkirk alive when he spent more than four years marooned on what was then known as Juan Fernandez Island. His experiences prompted Daniel Defoe to write the classic novel Robinson Crusoe. Ten plants have been grown and eventually we managed to get two to flower. This is very important because with its verification and identity confirmed we can now consider what else we can do to protect the **cabbage tree** and decide whether there's any possibility of reintroducing it to the island. The **cabbage tree** looks similar to a **palm** has orange flowers slightly bigger than a golf ball and would be pollinated in the wild by hummingbirds or through self-pollination.

Construction works

Major building work started with the transformation of the old gift shop, now relocated to the Visitor Centre, into a new Gallery. The first display was the Wild Harvest that revealed UK sustainability to the full. It had previously been shown at Kew, and was followed in December with a stunning collection of winter landscapes.

Late in the year refurbishment of the Stables Restaurant began, but prior to closing a programme of works was completed that included the reinstatement and extension of the old kitchen in the Mansion.

This new kitchen is being utilised to prepare food so that visitors can enjoy a lunch served at their table in the oak-panelled Conference Room during the Stables Restaurant closure. This is the same room where Sir Henry Price the last private owner of Wakehurst would have dined with his family and guests. The old kitchen area would have been smaller in the old days although this was transformed into laboratories for the Seed Conservation Department during the 1970's.

Staff

I am pleased to record the success of Steve Robinson, the Loder Valley Warden, who won the coveted BBC TV Countryfile photographic competition that attracted thousands of entries. His winning image of three dormice was taken as part of Wakehurst's monitoring programme of this endangered species. The image will feature with eleven others in a 2005 calendar that will be sold in aid of Children in Need.

During the summer several members of staff from the Gardens and Conservation and Woodlands Units attended a series of training days to increase their understanding of the damselflies and dragonflies found at Wakehurst. A study in 1994 had recorded 20 species of *Odonates* and during the first session in June the

Beautiful Damoiselle a previously unrecorded species of damselfly was seen in the Iris Dell. The training will enable staff to monitor the dragonfly populations in the garden.



The restored Bog Garden from the dipping pool boardwalk. (Photograph: C. D. Hardman)

Two new team leaders in the gardens Unit were appointed during August, Andy Marsh (Water Gardens) and Mercy Morris (Southern Hemisphere Garden) joined Paul Reader (Asian Heath Garden).

Clive Foster who worked at Kew for 15 years and then Wakehurst for a further four years resigned his post as Nursery and Science Support Manger in October after a 15 month career break during which he spent time looking after his young daughter.

Recycling at Wakehurst

Amongst our other large scale recycling initiatives at Wakehurst in February a new project saw us loading up our old and redundant computers to be shipped to Romania where, after being repaired and refurbished, they are used by school children. Taking a lead in trying to demonstrate sustainable initiatives we introduced eco-friendly biodegradable wrappers to replace plastic sandwich packaging in the restaurants at Wakehurst; a similar move is also reported at Kew.

Education programme

An amazing 1,200 youngsters took part in the February half term activities aimed at demonstrating the importance of plants. In the Mansion 'Learning Zone' there

was a chance to try hands on food art all week by creating portraits and pictures using fruits and vegetables. In the Millennium Seed Bank the Orange Room became the 'Science Zone' where children and parents investigated common foods and seeds to learn where fats, starches, sugars and proteins can be found. This programme has continued to flourish and changes of use in the Mansion have allowed us to utilize rooms previously occupied by other Departments.

Events

The regular **bluebell** weekends in May and the Autumn Colour days in October were well attended with the now established minibus tours around the garden. As always the unpredictability of the seasons yet again caused some concerns that there would still be some **bluebells** to see as well as the autumn colours changing on time.

Wakehurst was the launch venue of the 'Big Draw' on October 2nd for Southern England, a national event to encourage people to discover that drawing can improve observation, communication and invention but most importantly can give pleasure. The project encompassed over a thousand venues and ran throughout October

Christmas

We were able to provide the Shop with all the Christmas trees it felt able to sell as 'estate-grown' trees from our plantation, with the Friends dig your own tree event being popular. As always the large **Wellingtonia Sequoiadendron giganteum** was lit up with 1,800 lamps and the now well-established stringing of the tree was accomplished with the aid of two very large mobile platforms. To compliment the tree our annual Carol Concert was celebrated around it with the choirs and band and 2,000 visitors and this year it was hosted by the BBC Southern Counties presenter, David Miller.

Record Numbers

Although the year was one of the warmest recorded the sunshine levels never seemed to match those in 2003 and further data is shown on the attached table of monthly weather details. Finally this year has seen yet another amazing increase in the number of visitors to the garden. We retained our number one position for most-visited National Trust property nationally and for the first time we passed the 400,000 visitor total in the calendar year. The amazing aspect to this was just how many months we saw the previous highest broken: in fact eight out of 12 were improvements and at the time of writing it seems this will continue in 2005. Wakehurst Place thrives as a wonderful garden for visitors whilst promoting and developing the important conservation initiatives in which Kew is involved.

WAKEHURST PLACE WEATHER – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2003

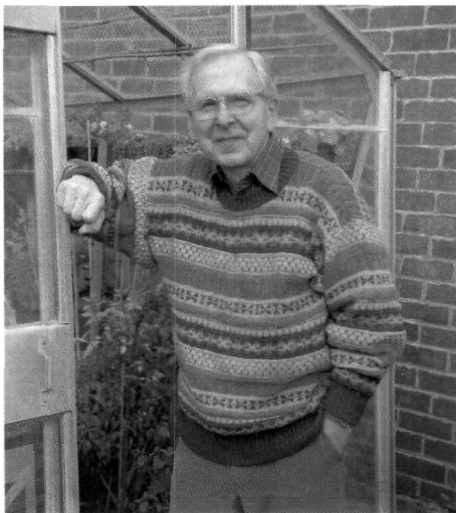
2004	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year (Totals)
Month's Total rainfall (mm)	125.8	33	44.3	81.7	44.8	28.6	61.3	97.9	26	145.2	34.9	67.3	790.8
<i>For Comparison 2003</i>	<i>114.1</i>	<i>37.6</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>54.3</i>	<i>38.0</i>	<i>87.0</i>	<i>47.9</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>51.8</i>	<i>141.1</i>	<i>94.0</i>	<i>728.6</i>
<i>For Comparison 2002</i>	<i>102.9</i>	<i>109.9</i>	<i>56.8</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>139.3</i>	<i>61.1</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>83.0</i>	<i>186.2</i>	<i>168.7</i>	<i>1,120</i>
<i>For Comparison 2001</i>	<i>(129.9)</i>	<i>(123.5)</i>	<i>(119.8)</i>	<i>(85.0)</i>	<i>(32.4)</i>	<i>(15.6)</i>	<i>(53.1)</i>	<i>(99.9)</i>	<i>(102.5)</i>	<i>(159.3)</i>	<i>(40.7)</i>	<i>(28.3)</i>	<i>(989.5)</i>
<i>For Comparison 2000</i>	<i>[35.9]</i>	<i>[83.0]</i>	<i>[22.5]</i>	<i>[123.9]</i>	<i>[120.1]</i>	<i>[14.9]</i>	<i>[47.5]</i>	<i>[38.6]</i>	<i>[137.3]</i>	<i>[288.7]</i>	<i>[222.0]</i>	<i>[202.5]</i>	<i>[1,336.9]</i>
<i>For Comparison 1999</i>	<i>{120.8}</i>	<i>{8.35}</i>	<i>{40.2}</i>	<i>{56.5}</i>	<i>{33.7}</i>	<i>{60.5}</i>	<i>{10.2}</i>	<i>{117.5}</i>	<i>{152.7}</i>	<i>{66.8}</i>	<i>{36.4}</i>	<i>{165.8}</i>	<i>{869.45}</i>
Rainiest day (mm)	12th 20.9	1st 16.2	19th 7.8	17th 14.1	3rd 14.0	22nd 21.0	7th 26.6	18th 16.4	12th 12.2	13th 28.6	1st 10.0	18th 18.7	
Rainless days	4	14	10	10	21	22	21	13	19	9	8	18	
Highest Max. Temp. (°C)	10.9 6th	15.9 4th	21.1 31st	25.3 25th	26.6 17th	31.4 8th	31.2 31st	33 31st	30.2 4th	19 30th	14.7 4th & 12th	12.3 31st	
Lowest Max. Temp. (°C)	3.7 2nd	3.2 20th	6.7 7th	8.9 29th	11.7 8th	15.5 23rd	18.1 2nd	18.1 7th	13.9 25th	10.2 15th	5.6 19th	4.8 26th	
Highest Min. Temp. (°C)	8.0 11th	10.5 4th	8.1 15th	10.4 28th	12.9 29th	15.2 8th	16.5 15th	19.2 9th	15.7 6th	13.8 23rd	10.0 17th	8.1 6th	
Lowest Min. Temp. (°C)	-3.7 29th	-5.4 26th	-3.6 2nd	1.7 12th	3.7 23rd	5.9 20th	9.3 19th	9.3 31st	5.8 16th	2.0 10th	0.1 14th	-2.7 26th	
Nights with air temp. below freezing	9	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Windiest Day (mph)	16th NNW 33	5th SW 29h	21st WSW 40	5th W 23	22nd NNE 23	23rd SW & 24th W 32	4th WSW 21	19th SW 25	25th WSW 25	21st SW 29	19th NNW 24	24th SW 23	

WAKEHURST PLACE WEATHER – JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2003

2004	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year (Totals)
Month's Total rainfall (mm)	125.8	33	44.3	81.7	44.8	28.6	61.3	97.9	26	145.2	34.9	67.3	790.8
<i>For Comparison 2003</i>	<i>114.1</i>	<i>37.6</i>	<i>18.9</i>	<i>37.3</i>	<i>54.3</i>	<i>38.0</i>	<i>87.0</i>	<i>47.9</i>	<i>6.6</i>	<i>51.8</i>	<i>141.1</i>	<i>94.0</i>	<i>728.6</i>
<i>For Comparison 2002</i>	<i>102.9</i>	<i>109.9</i>	<i>56.8</i>	<i>41.3</i>	<i>139.3</i>	<i>61.1</i>	<i>83.6</i>	<i>47.4</i>	<i>39.3</i>	<i>83.0</i>	<i>186.2</i>	<i>168.7</i>	<i>1,120</i>
<i>For Comparison 2001</i>	<i>(129.9)</i>	<i>(123.5)</i>	<i>(119.8)</i>	<i>(85.0)</i>	<i>(32.4)</i>	<i>(15.6)</i>	<i>(53.1)</i>	<i>(99.9)</i>	<i>(102.5)</i>	<i>(159.3)</i>	<i>(40.7)</i>	<i>(28.3)</i>	<i>(989.5)</i>
<i>For Comparison 2000</i>	<i>[35.9]</i>	<i>[83.0]</i>	<i>[22.5]</i>	<i>[123.9]</i>	<i>[120.1]</i>	<i>[14.9]</i>	<i>[47.5]</i>	<i>[38.6]</i>	<i>[137.3]</i>	<i>[288.7]</i>	<i>[222.0]</i>	<i>[202.5]</i>	<i>[1,336.9]</i>
<i>For Comparison 1999</i>	<i>{120.8}</i>	<i>{8.35}</i>	<i>{40.2}</i>	<i>{56.5}</i>	<i>{33.7}</i>	<i>{60.5}</i>	<i>{10.2}</i>	<i>{117.5}</i>	<i>{152.7}</i>	<i>{66.8}</i>	<i>{36.4}</i>	<i>{165.8}</i>	<i>{869.45}</i>
Rainiest day (mm)	12th 20.9	1st 16.2	19th 7.8	17th 14.1	3rd 14.0	22nd 21.0	7th 26.6	18th 16.4	12th 12.2	13th 28.6	1st 10.0	18th 18.7	
Rainless days	4	14	10	10	21	22	21	13	19	9	8	18	
Highest Max. Temp. (°C)	10.9 6th	15.9 4th	21.1 31st	25.3 25th	26.6 17th	31.4 8th	31.2 31st	33 31st	30.2 4th	19 30th	14.7 4th & 12th	12.3 31st	
Lowest Max. Temp. (°C)	3.7 2nd	3.2 20th	6.7 7th	8.9 29th	11.7 8th	15.5 23rd	18.1 2nd	18.1 7th	13.9 25th	10.2 15th	5.6 19th	4.8 26th	
Highest Min. Temp. (°C)	8.0 11th	10.5 4th	8.1 15th	10.4 28th	12.9 29th	15.2 8th	16.5 15th	19.2 9th	15.7 6th	13.8 23rd	10.0 17th	8.1 6th	
Lowest Min. Temp. (°C)	-3.7 29th	-5.4 26th	-3.6 2nd	1.7 12th	3.7 23rd	5.9 20th	9.3 19th	9.3 31st	5.8 16th	2.0 10th	0.1 14th	-2.7 26th	
Nights with air temp. below freezing	9	10	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
Windiest Day (mph)	16th NNW 33	5th SW 29h	21st WSW 40	5th W 23	22nd NNE 23	23rd SW & 24th W 32	4th WSW 21	19th SW 25	25th WSW 25	21st SW 29	19th NNW 24	24th SW 23	

STAN HITT HONOURED WITH MBE

In the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours list, Stan Hitt (1955) was awarded the M.B.E. for 'Services to Horticulture in Bath'. Following several years in commercial horticulture, Stan first came to Kew as an improver gardener for a year in 1951, followed by another year working for the Royal Parks in the Hyde Park Nursery, and then back to Kew as a student from 1953 to 1955. At that time, his wife-to-be, Iris (née Bewley), was working at the Herbarium, and they were married in Kew Church in 1956. Fellow student, Tim Harvey, was best man.



Stan Hitt, M.B.E. (Photograph courtesy of Alison Hitt)

After Kew, Stan spent time at Uxbridge and Clacton-on-Sea Parks Departments (both popular venues for ex-Kew students in those days), before arriving at Bath in 1966 as Chief Assistant (subsequently Deputy) to the Parks Director, the highly respected Fred Daw. On local government reorganisation in 1974, the Director retired and Stan became head of the department, the post he held for 13 years until he took early retirement in 1987. During that time, Bath was five times winners of the National Britain in Bloom competition, and twice winners of the Entente Florale, the European equivalent. He was himself a southwest regional judge for over 30 years.

On retirement in 1987, Stan was given a short-term contract to develop the 100 year old Bath Botanical Gardens, including the formation of the 'Friends of the Gardens' and he also wrote a new illustrated guide. At the same time he started the Bath Spring Flower Show, a three day major event, now in its 19th year. He is now Chairman of the 'Friends' and President of the Show, is still very active in both capacities, but is otherwise retired. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture in 1998.

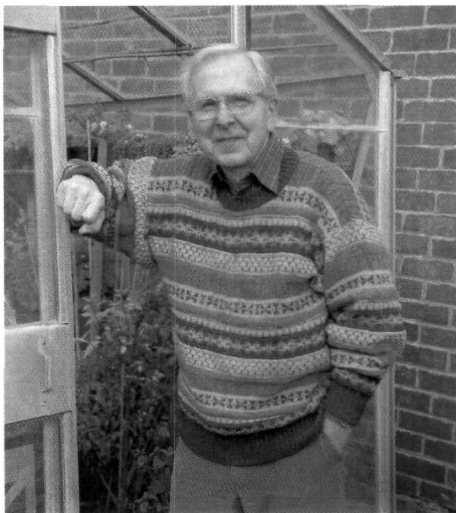
DRAMATIC PROGRESS AT BORDE HILL

by Harvey Stephens

Back in the autumn, Jennifer asked me to write a short piece on the progress I was making at Borde Hill Garden. Having promised John Woodhams a report some time ago, I have felt an update was now long overdue. Since graduating from Kew, I've worked in Israel, Russia and briefly the Eden Project. For the past four years I've had the challenging role of Head Gardener of Borde Hill Garden.

STAN HITT HONOURED WITH MBE

In the 2004 Queen's Birthday Honours list, Stan Hitt (1955) was awarded the M.B.E. for 'Services to Horticulture in Bath'. Following several years in commercial horticulture, Stan first came to Kew as an improver gardener for a year in 1951, followed by another year working for the Royal Parks in the Hyde Park Nursery, and then back to Kew as a student from 1953 to 1955. At that time, his wife-to-be, Iris (née Bewley), was working at the Herbarium, and they were married in Kew Church in 1956. Fellow student, Tim Harvey, was best man.



Stan Hitt, M.B.E. (Photograph courtesy of Alison Hitt)

After Kew, Stan spent time at Uxbridge and Clacton-on-Sea Parks Departments (both popular venues for ex-Kew students in those days), before arriving at Bath in 1966 as Chief Assistant (subsequently Deputy) to the Parks Director, the highly respected Fred Daw. On local government reorganisation in 1974, the Director retired and Stan became head of the department, the post he held for 13 years until he took early retirement in 1987. During that time, Bath was five times winners of the National Britain in Bloom competition, and twice winners of the Entente Florale, the European equivalent. He was himself a southwest regional judge for over 30 years.

On retirement in 1987, Stan was given a short-term contract to develop the 100 year old Bath Botanical Gardens, including the formation of the 'Friends of the Gardens' and he also wrote a new illustrated guide. At the same time he started the Bath Spring Flower Show, a three day major event, now in its 19th year. He is now Chairman of the 'Friends' and President of the Show, is still very active in both capacities, but is otherwise retired. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute of Horticulture in 1998.

DRAMATIC PROGRESS AT BORDE HILL

by Harvey Stephens

Back in the autumn, Jennifer asked me to write a short piece on the progress I was making at Borde Hill Garden. Having promised John Woodhams a report some time ago, I have felt an update was now long overdue. Since graduating from Kew, I've worked in Israel, Russia and briefly the Eden Project. For the past four years I've had the challenging role of Head Gardener of Borde Hill Garden.

Since the first plantings in the late 1890's Borde Hill has developed into one of the finest mature collections of trees and shrubs in the country. The house was built in 1598 by Stephen Borde and today is set in more than 200 acres of parkland, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the high weald between Haywards Heath and Cuckfield in Mid Sussex. Colonel Stephenson Robert Clarke bought the property in 1883 and in the early 1900's sponsored many of the expeditions by the great plant collectors of the early twentieth century. He was a keen naturalist and passionate plantsman, so much so, that Harold Hillier suggested, "He was the greatest amateur all-rounder in the gardening world of the 20th century." Despite four generations of the family having contributed to Borde Hill, it is undoubtedly his foresight that remains with us to this day. He bred and offered many plants for RHS awards and probably his greatest gift to the world of horticulture was *Camellia x williamsii* 'Donation', still one of the most popular **camellias** to this day.

For more than half a century the Garden has maintained close links with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. The Garden became a charity in 1965 and Sir George Taylor was one of the founding members of the board of independent directors representing Kew, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, RHS, the Forestry Commission and members of the family. Charles Erskine, the former Assistant Curator of the Arboretum at Kew, now chairs the Garden Committee.

The past decade has seen considerable change and development of the Garden. In 1997 the Garden received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the restoration of the Victorian greenhouses, extending the planting and upgrading the paths for disabled access. Great work has been carried out restoring the Rose Garden to its original early 20th century style. Whilst the result, is high maintenance, the 500 plus David Austin **roses** put on a fine display from June through to September in formal beds edged with **box** and **lavender**. The restoration has proved most successful and we now get several thousand visitors during the Rose Festival in June.

The formal Gardens extend to almost 11 acres and include a number of very distinct areas. The Old Rhododendron Garden provides a splash of early colour, with some of the original introductions still remaining. The tranquil Italian Garden provides some really spectacular views across the rolling parkland and lakes, and our visitors can enjoy the peaceful atmosphere and vibrant colours of the late summer flowering perennials. A real subtropical surprise awaits our visitors to the Round Dell. Large *Arundinaria*, *Musa*, *Canna* and *Gunnera* create dramatic effect through the summer. In the past couple of years we have phased the replanting of the Old Potting Shed area. The remaining walls provide a wonderful variety of microclimates that have enabled us to replant with a number of unusual Chilean and Tasmanian species. We are experimenting with a number of interesting climbers such as *Lapageria*, *Sollya*, *Solanum*, and *Mutisia* and have also introduced many hardy *Nerines*.

The Garden still receives a great many natural source plants, courtesy of Kew, Wakehurst, Howick and Westonbirt. Several of these have been planted through the Long Dell over the past eight or nine years and are now forming a very promising new collection of Sino-Himalayan plants.

Beyond the formal Gardens set in rolling parkland, lies a number of small woods and copses, that hold a vast collection of rare trees and shrubs. The Garden currently holds more than 70 registered Champion Trees. One of the most noteworthy specimens in the Garden is a fine *Liriodendron chinense* that was planted in 1913. The collector E. H. Wilson gathered the seed some 10 years earlier for the famous Veitch Nursery.

A major landmark this year is the centenary of the first exotic plantings in Warren Wood, a 6.7 acre copse containing many towering **rhododendrons**, mature **magnolias** and **conifers**, several of which are champion trees. In the past three years many fallen trees have been removed and much undergrowth cut down and replanted with several different **conifers** species. The wood comes alive in early spring and looks particularly beautiful with carpets of **bluebells** and **wood anemones**.

The Garden is open all year round and there is a full programme of events and activities that cater for a wide spectrum of visitors. As I complete this article the staff are putting the finishing touches to this year's Easter Eggcitement. In April, Borde Hill is once again hosting the RHS main Rhododendron Show, in partnership with the International Camellia Society and the RHS South East Magnolia Group. Other key events for us are the 'Sculpture Trail' through May, the 'Rose Festival' in June and our third 'Summer Magic Proms' event in August.

Having just been voted Garden of the Year 2004 by members of the Historic Houses Association/Christies, Borde Hill has proved that it is still 'one of the country's truly great Gardens' according to *Country Life*

Despite having not attended any of the recent Guild dinners, or outings for that matter, I have had a surprising amount of contact with a great many Kewites. In the coming year I do hope to welcome one or two more Guild members to the Garden.

ALAN TITCHMARSH KEW GUILD/KEW MUTUAL LECTURE

by Lucy Hart, Kew Mutual Chairman (2004-2005) Course 41

Alan Titchmarsh was invited by the Kew Guild to give an evening talk for the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. On 4th October 2004 he gave up his free time to speak about 'Royal Gardeners'.

This is the second year a Kew Guild Member has been asked to speak at the Kew Mutual evenings and Colin Hindmarch, the new president 2004-2005 expressed his wishes for it to continue for future years. A joint Kew Guild and Kew Mutual event encourages students to join the Kew Guild and is a great opportunity for the two groups to meet.

Alan Titchmarsh, a Kewite himself, started the Kew Diploma in 1969 on Course seven and was part of the student committee who organised the Kew Mutual

Beyond the formal Gardens set in rolling parkland, lies a number of small woods and copses, that hold a vast collection of rare trees and shrubs. The Garden currently holds more than 70 registered Champion Trees. One of the most noteworthy specimens in the Garden is a fine *Liriodendron chinense* that was planted in 1913. The collector E. H. Wilson gathered the seed some 10 years earlier for the famous Veitch Nursery.

A major landmark this year is the centenary of the first exotic plantings in Warren Wood, a 6.7 acre copse containing many towering **rhododendrons**, mature **magnolias** and **conifers**, several of which are champion trees. In the past three years many fallen trees have been removed and much undergrowth cut down and replanted with several different **conifers** species. The wood comes alive in early spring and looks particularly beautiful with carpets of **bluebells** and **wood anemones**.

The Garden is open all year round and there is a full programme of events and activities that cater for a wide spectrum of visitors. As I complete this article the staff are putting the finishing touches to this year's Easter Eggcitement. In April, Borde Hill is once again hosting the RHS main Rhododendron Show, in partnership with the International Camellia Society and the RHS South East Magnolia Group. Other key events for us are the 'Sculpture Trail' through May, the 'Rose Festival' in June and our third 'Summer Magic Proms' event in August.

Having just been voted Garden of the Year 2004 by members of the Historic Houses Association/Christies, Borde Hill has proved that it is still 'one of the country's truly great Gardens' according to *Country Life*

Despite having not attended any of the recent Guild dinners, or outings for that matter, I have had a surprising amount of contact with a great many Kewites. In the coming year I do hope to welcome one or two more Guild members to the Garden.

ALAN TITCHMARSH KEW GUILD/KEW MUTUAL LECTURE

by Lucy Hart, Kew Mutual Chairman (2004-2005) Course 41

Alan Titchmarsh was invited by the Kew Guild to give an evening talk for the Kew Mutual Improvement Society. On 4th October 2004 he gave up his free time to speak about 'Royal Gardeners'.

This is the second year a Kew Guild Member has been asked to speak at the Kew Mutual evenings and Colin Hindmarch, the new president 2004-2005 expressed his wishes for it to continue for future years. A joint Kew Guild and Kew Mutual event encourages students to join the Kew Guild and is a great opportunity for the two groups to meet.

Alan Titchmarsh, a Kewite himself, started the Kew Diploma in 1969 on Course seven and was part of the student committee who organised the Kew Mutual



Left to right: Colin Hindmarch with Alan Titchmarsh and David Cutler. (Photograph courtesy Richard Ward)

Improvement Society at that time. Just like students now, Alan also had a vegetable plot to maintain and worked in various parts of the gardens during his three student years. He recalls working in the Palm House and looking after 'Probably the Oldest Pot Plant in the World', the *Encephalartos altensteinii* which is thought to have been received from the Cape, South Africa, in 1775. Students today also share the same lectures as Alan, with Dr Tom Reynolds continuing his Physiology lectures, Dr Peter Brandham teaching Genetics and Dr David Cutler, Kew Guild President 2003-2003 lecturing Structural Botany.

As we were expecting a high turn out for the lecture it seemed a perfect opportunity to raise some cash for the students. With Alan's agreement the students made an extra charge for this special lecture to help fund their third year Spanish trips. After taking out the usual Kew Mutual Lecture entry fee we raised an astounding total of £1,249 which is being shared between course 41 and 40.

Before the lecture Alan was busily signing books at the Victoria Gate bookshop. I picked him up from Victoria Gate in a gardens (Gator) vehicle and whisked him back down to the Jodrell Lecture Theatre where tea and cakes were being served by the students. It was a 6.30pm sharp start and our speaker was ready for the busy evening with a nearly full capacity lecture theatre.

According to Alan, the Jodrell Lecture Theatre hadn't changed much since he was a student. He came over nostalgic as he remembered the front wooden lecture desk with the draw of numerous light switches, often found to be confusing for the

operator. Alan was not going to turn the lights down for this lecture, they were turned up with the microphone at a satisfyingly loud level. Alan did not use visuals for his lecture but instead captivated the audience with his humorous, down-to-earth style, taking them through a historical journey of Royal gardeners, "1,000 years in 40 minutes," as he put it. During the talk Alan considered the influence the Royals had on gardening trends. Houses and land showed status and the bigger and better designs reflected the family's distinctions. He related an in-depth knowledge of Britain's monarchy history and its subsequent affect on garden history. At the end of the lecture the audience was invited to ask the speaker questions and he discussed the Chelsea Flower Show, his other TV work and plans for his garden at his new home.

To conclude the night Ian Leese, Principle of the School of Horticulture was asked to give the vote of thanks and Andrea Brusendorf (Kew Mutual Chairman 2003-2004) presented Alan with a homemade cake and an *Acer davidii* tree.

The evening was a superb success and Alan had left the audience thrilled by making them laugh whilst educating them at the same time. On behalf of the Kew Diploma students I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Titchmarsh for providing a wonderful evening and helping us with our field trip funds. Many thanks to the Kew Guild for their support to the students and thank you to all those who came along to the lecture.

THE PHENOLOGY DATABASE AT KEW

By F. Nigel Hepper

The current President of Kew Guild, Dr Colin Hindmarch, has asked me to write an article about my initiation of the phenology database at Kew. The term phenology may be defined as the study of recurring natural phenomena such as the first frogspawn or swallow to be recorded in the same locality. For Kew it is essentially botanical phenomena – the annual date of flowering of certain plants. Anthesis (pollen shedding) is usually the beginning of flowering, but in practice it is the first opening of the petals. Although the project known as 'The Kew 100', since it comprises a selection of 100 species of flowering plants occurring in the Royal Botanic Gardens, was formed in 2000, the database actually includes several thousand species with records going back to the 1950s. Originally these were recorded by me.

To put all this into historical perspective I need to get rather autobiographical! Until my retirement over 10 years ago I was a systematic botanist in the Herbarium, yet almost daily from the early '50s to the '90s I noted the flowering of numerous plants at Kew, especially in the Rock Garden and Queen's Garden where there is the greatest concentration of species. The flowering and leafing of many trees and shrubs throughout the Gardens were also recorded. This gave an accuracy to the records of a day or two as I walked around at lunch-time or on the way through the grounds to the Herbarium, except at week-ends. However, the records are by no means

operator. Alan was not going to turn the lights down for this lecture, they were turned up with the microphone at a satisfyingly loud level. Alan did not use visuals for his lecture but instead captivated the audience with his humorous, down-to-earth style, taking them through a historical journey of Royal gardeners, "1,000 years in 40 minutes," as he put it. During the talk Alan considered the influence the Royals had on gardening trends. Houses and land showed status and the bigger and better designs reflected the family's distinctions. He related an in-depth knowledge of Britain's monarchy history and its subsequent affect on garden history. At the end of the lecture the audience was invited to ask the speaker questions and he discussed the Chelsea Flower Show, his other TV work and plans for his garden at his new home.

To conclude the night Ian Leese, Principle of the School of Horticulture was asked to give the vote of thanks and Andrea Brusendorf (Kew Mutual Chairman 2003-2004) presented Alan with a homemade cake and an *Acer davidii* tree.

The evening was a superb success and Alan had left the audience thrilled by making them laugh whilst educating them at the same time. On behalf of the Kew Diploma students I would like to take this opportunity to thank Alan Titchmarsh for providing a wonderful evening and helping us with our field trip funds. Many thanks to the Kew Guild for their support to the students and thank you to all those who came along to the lecture.

THE PHENOLOGY DATABASE AT KEW

By F. Nigel Hepper

The current President of Kew Guild, Dr Colin Hindmarch, has asked me to write an article about my initiation of the phenology database at Kew. The term phenology may be defined as the study of recurring natural phenomena such as the first frogspawn or swallow to be recorded in the same locality. For Kew it is essentially botanical phenomena – the annual date of flowering of certain plants. Anthesis (pollen shedding) is usually the beginning of flowering, but in practice it is the first opening of the petals. Although the project known as 'The Kew 100', since it comprises a selection of 100 species of flowering plants occurring in the Royal Botanic Gardens, was formed in 2000, the database actually includes several thousand species with records going back to the 1950s. Originally these were recorded by me.

To put all this into historical perspective I need to get rather autobiographical! Until my retirement over 10 years ago I was a systematic botanist in the Herbarium, yet almost daily from the early '50s to the '90s I noted the flowering of numerous plants at Kew, especially in the Rock Garden and Queen's Garden where there is the greatest concentration of species. The flowering and leafing of many trees and shrubs throughout the Gardens were also recorded. This gave an accuracy to the records of a day or two as I walked around at lunch-time or on the way through the grounds to the Herbarium, except at week-ends. However, the records are by no means

continuous since they are more numerous during the 1950s, 1960s and 1980s to early 1990s. (This is mainly due to the fact that I attended to an allotment in the Herbarium Meadow during the 1970s.) Of course there were numerous gaps when I was on expeditions, on holiday, or simply forgot to note something. It was a hobby with no back up! Sadly, a dozen cards of the longest continuous runs from 1950s to 1990s went missing when I retired and there is little hope of their turning up now.

I should mention that parallel to the Kew records I was recording flowering dates of several hundred in my private garden near by in Richmond, and these fill the gap since they go from 1961 to the present. Even before that as a boy I had noted those flowering later than usual after the severe winter of 1947. This was in our Leeds garden with the help of my parents during my absences at university and they continued recording until to Kew until 1963. Actually, my first notes date from 1938 when I was nine years and as a teenager kept a daily diary starting with the weather that often included barometric pressure and my estimate of the Beaufort wind-scale! All the Richmond phenological records (but not those from Leeds) are now incorporated into the Kew database where over four thousand species are entered, some with only a year or two others with many years.

Of course, the practice of recording natural events is a very British phenomenon. Witness those made by the famous naturalist Rev. Gilbert White at Selbourne, and the Marshams in Norfolk who maintained the family tradition for some 200 years. In the Herbarium I was not the first member of the staff to take an interest in phenology since the former Keeper, Dr. W. B. Turrill, was for many years a referee for the Royal Meteorological Society's annual Phenological Reports, which were issued for over a hundred years until 1948. Then phenological studies fell out of favour in UK for seemingly more sophisticated, 'scientific' research. But in continental Europe there continued the International Phenological Gardens Scheme with a network of observers. Clones of trees and shrubs were distributed to participants in some 70 sites and flowering and leafing dates sent in for analysis by the central office in Stuttgart. There was only one British participant, the Forestry Commission at Alice Holt, but regrettably the small site was closed down in the mid-80s.

Suddenly in the late 1990s, there was a realisation by British naturalists that phenology has a lot to say about environmental trends; records were desperately needed to prove global warming or not. Dr. Tim Sparks of the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology (NERC) at Monks Wood took the initiative to form a network of amateur recorders in conjunction with the Woodland Trust. This organisation deals with wild species, whereas the Kew records and those by Professor Fred Lack in Dundee, and Edinburgh Botanic Garden, are based on cultivated individuals. This has the advantage of accurate naming; cutting down on genetic variability of flowering times; the same microclimate and a constant aspect (north-facing situation is cooler than a south-facing one).

So what is to be gained by all this effort? There are various ways of looking at the records from cursory comparison to computerised analysis. I find the best way to compare the seasons is to plot the records graphically species by species (see

Figs.1-3). It is interesting to see how regularly plants flower each year – rooted there and reacting to their environmental conditions, especially temperature. They are remarkably consistent, like the old party game ‘Simon Says’, what one does the next does; I find this reassuring. It is a fascinating hobby for anyone who is sure of the identity of the plants being noted. One finds it more and more absorbing as the database is seen to be accumulating year by year. Of course, there is confusing out-of-season flowering not to be recorded for some species and especially hybrids. Usually when the first flowers appear the rest soon follow on but some don’t behave so well, such as the **primrose** which starts to flower here and there in the autumn or even late summer. Others seem to be unaffected by current warming, so there are many lines of research opening up. Professor A. H. Fitter has analysed his sequences of data of wild flowers in central England in a similar way to mine and come to the same conclusion that spring is arriving earlier.

A practical application is that it is possible to estimate from flowering dates when fruiting will occur. Even when I have noted only one or two annual flowering dates for a species I hope that these may be of use to, say, a monographer or garden writer. In books one reads that a certain species is ‘spring flowering’, which may mean any time from February to May; at least at Kew/Richmond it can now be defined more precisely. The length of the period of flowering is another study that could be undertaken but the end of flowering is much more difficult to determine than the beginning. I am sure there are other possible ways to analyse the data which could also be a resource for a variety of studies as well as phenology. It is good to know that the Kew 100 phenology project and part of the database are available in the Conservation and Wildlife section of the Kew website (www.kew.org) are now official (currently under Sandra Bell), and will be maintained in perpetuity.

One fact I conclude from my phenological data collected over the last half century is that **global warming is a reality!**

For anyone wishing to follow this further see my paper ‘Phenological records of English garden plants in Leeds (Yorks) and Richmond (Surrey) from 1946 to 2002. An analysis relating to global warming.’ *Biodiversity and Conservation* 12: 2503-2520 (2003), where there are additional graphs and references to other relevant publications.

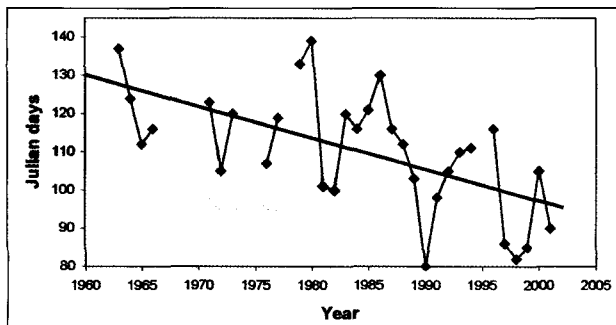
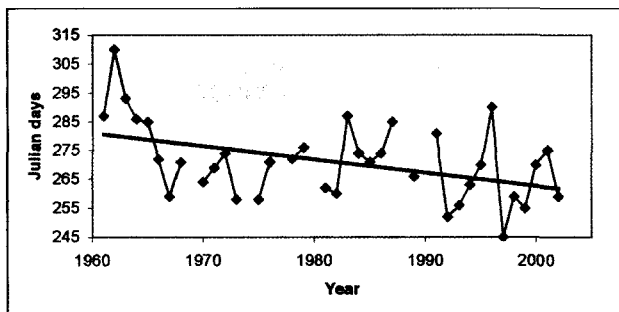
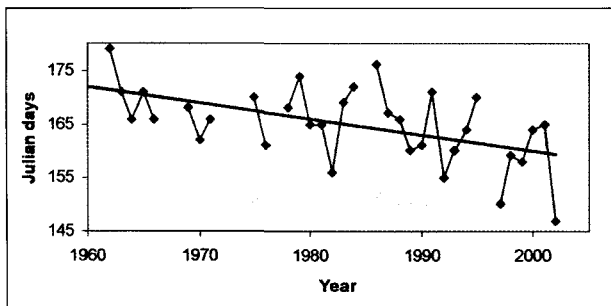


Figure 1 A graph showing the first dates of spring-flowering **Stone Cross Aethionema 'Warley Rose'**. Although there is considerable fluctuation typical of early-flowering species due to mild or cold springs there is a marked trend (shown by the mean line) towards earlier flowering from 1963-2004 of about 30 days. Gaps in the records are indicated by dotted lines.

Figure 2.

First-flowering of **Martagon Lily** *Lilium martagon* 1961-2004 showing an earlier trend of about 10 days by May.

**Figure 3.**

First-flowering dates of **Nerine** *Nerine bowdenii* 1961-2004; showing a slight trend towards earlier flowering of a few days, even in the autumn. (The earlier years appear to be unexplained aberrations.)

FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Some of Kew's seeds don't fall far from the tree, preferring the sandy soil close the parent plant; others are blown far and wide to all corners of the globe. Aware that horticulture, even botanical horticulture, is not Kewcentric, we are inviting the 'aliens' among our members to act as correspondents, reporting back to those of us still in Great Britain about the progress of horticulture in their part of the world. Envisioned as less personal than 'News of Kewites', the success of this feature is dependent on you, the reader. If you would like to 'take the temperature' of horticulture in all its forms in your part of the world, please get in touch with the Editor.

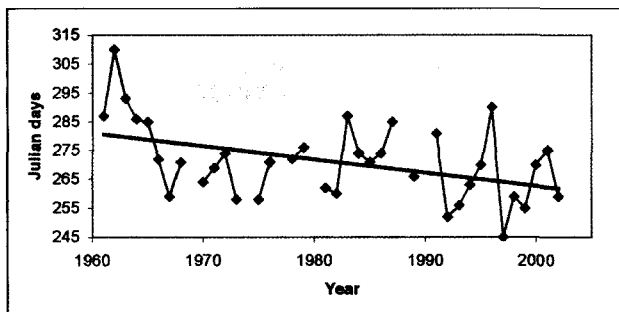
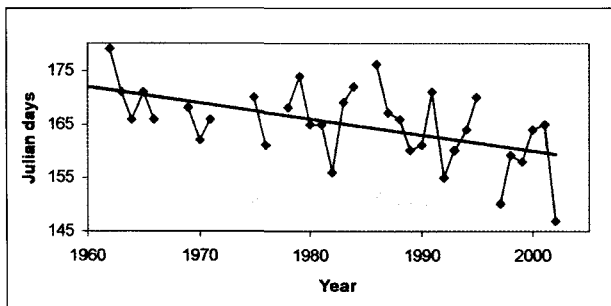
LIFE AND GARDENING ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR

by Mirco Berenbrinker, Kew Dip. (Hons.) M.Sc.

It is early on Monday morning when my colleagues and I, still a little sleepy, turn round a curve in Nice to suddenly face the sunrise above the near horizon of Cap Ferrat. The lighthouse still flashes its signal out to sea, but soon the haze will lift to make way for another bright day. This is how most days begin when we drive eastward from the City of Nice to the peninsular of St. Jean-Cap-Ferrat, where we work on construction and maintenance in one of the grand, private gardens. This

Figure 2.

First-flowering of **Martagon Lily** *Lilium martagon* 1961-2004 showing an earlier trend of about 10 days by May.

**Figure 3.**

First-flowering dates of **Nerine** *Nerine bowdenii* 1961-2004; showing a slight trend towards earlier flowering of a few days, even in the autumn. (The earlier years appear to be unexplained aberrations.)

FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS

Some of Kew's seeds don't fall far from the tree, preferring the sandy soil close the parent plant; others are blown far and wide to all corners of the globe. Aware that horticulture, even botanical horticulture, is not Kewcentric, we are inviting the 'aliens' among our members to act as correspondents, reporting back to those of us still in Great Britain about the progress of horticulture in their part of the world. Envisioned as less personal than 'News of Kewites', the success of this feature is dependent on you, the reader. If you would like to 'take the temperature' of horticulture in all its forms in your part of the world, please get in touch with the Editor.

LIFE AND GARDENING ON THE CÔTE D'AZUR

by Mirco Berenbrinker, Kew Dip. (Hons.) M.Sc.

It is early on Monday morning when my colleagues and I, still a little sleepy, turn round a curve in Nice to suddenly face the sunrise above the near horizon of Cap Ferrat. The lighthouse still flashes its signal out to sea, but soon the haze will lift to make way for another bright day. This is how most days begin when we drive eastward from the City of Nice to the peninsular of St. Jean-Cap-Ferrat, where we work on construction and maintenance in one of the grand, private gardens. This

is also where I have spent most of my work time since my arrival in the South of France in November of 2003.

The Côte D'Azur is likely to be the most well known holiday destination in Britain. Although initially named by a local poet who remarked on the amazing azure-blue sky and sea, it is now commonly regarded as the stretch of coast between St. Tropez in the West and the town of Menton, near the Italian border, in the East. The climate is typically Mediterranean. Hot and dry summers with a maximum temperature of around 36°C/96°F in July, alternate with mild and moist winters with the occasional cold night of -5°C/21°F in January. However, winter daytime temperatures will rise up to 19°C/66°F. The sun is strong and the air moist with an annual average of 72% relative humidity.

It is easily imagined that a lot of plant species flourish under such conditions. The **Swiss cheese plant** (*Monstera deliciosa*) for example, grows out in the open, but nevertheless is on the edge of its cold hardiness. **Cycads** like *Encephalartos lehmannii* are just about hanging on under winter protection. For garden designers it is reasonably easy to totally shut out all feelings of winter by creating gardens that flower all year round and are completely evergreen. Likewise, plants well known from the north like the **roses**, achieve astonishing results. Hybrid-tea roses like the **Peace Rose** flower continuously from January until December, and the horticulturist is advised to force the plants into at least a short rest period by decisive pruning in February. However, one limiting factor to the healthy development of many plant species is the relatively high alkalinity of local soils, which are usually a clay loam with a pH of around 8.5. Horticultural 'magic' however, can help to solve this problem by appropriate soil amelioration and irrigation with acidified water.

In conclusion I would like to highlight the fact that, although the Côte D'Azur is certainly a remarkable place for visiting extraordinary public and private gardens, its horticultural potential has not yet been fully exploited. In Nice Botanical Garden one can catch glimpses of exotic Southern-hemisphere flora that does flourish here, for example *Banksia* and *Leucadendron* spp. Plants like these that originate from similar climates around the world are rarely found in local nurseries and therefore remain largely unknown to the garden owner. Let's hope that the few who know about the Côte D'Azur's full horticultural potential will soon manage to open peoples' eyes for the wonders that still slumber in botanical gardens and in few private collections.

LIFE IN THE TROPICS

by Chris Cole

What a difference a year makes, last January I was a Gardens Manager with PrimaFlora Design & Build (Paul Pollard's company, also an ex-Kewite) in Surrey. Now, having emigrated to Australia with my wife, I find myself as Curator of three Botanic Gardens in Townsville, Tropical North Queensland. If nothing else the contrast in climate is extreme. Townsville is located firmly within the Dry Tropics,

is also where I have spent most of my work time since my arrival in the South of France in November of 2003.

The Côte D'Azur is likely to be the most well known holiday destination in Britain. Although initially named by a local poet who remarked on the amazing azure-blue sky and sea, it is now commonly regarded as the stretch of coast between St. Tropez in the West and the town of Menton, near the Italian border, in the East. The climate is typically Mediterranean. Hot and dry summers with a maximum temperature of around 36°C/96°F in July, alternate with mild and moist winters with the occasional cold night of -5°C/21°F in January. However, winter daytime temperatures will rise up to 19°C/66°F. The sun is strong and the air moist with an annual average of 72% relative humidity.

It is easily imagined that a lot of plant species flourish under such conditions. The **Swiss cheese plant** (*Monstera deliciosa*) for example, grows out in the open, but nevertheless is on the edge of its cold hardiness. **Cycads** like *Encephalartos lehmannii* are just about hanging on under winter protection. For garden designers it is reasonably easy to totally shut out all feelings of winter by creating gardens that flower all year round and are completely evergreen. Likewise, plants well known from the north like the **roses**, achieve astonishing results. Hybrid-tea roses like the **Peace Rose** flower continuously from January until December, and the horticulturist is advised to force the plants into at least a short rest period by decisive pruning in February. However, one limiting factor to the healthy development of many plant species is the relatively high alkalinity of local soils, which are usually a clay loam with a pH of around 8.5. Horticultural 'magic' however, can help to solve this problem by appropriate soil amelioration and irrigation with acidified water.

In conclusion I would like to highlight the fact that, although the Côte D'Azur is certainly a remarkable place for visiting extraordinary public and private gardens, its horticultural potential has not yet been fully exploited. In Nice Botanical Garden one can catch glimpses of exotic Southern-hemisphere flora that does flourish here, for example *Banksia* and *Leucadendron* spp. Plants like these that originate from similar climates around the world are rarely found in local nurseries and therefore remain largely unknown to the garden owner. Let's hope that the few who know about the Côte D'Azur's full horticultural potential will soon manage to open peoples' eyes for the wonders that still slumber in botanical gardens and in few private collections.

LIFE IN THE TROPICS

by Chris Cole

What a difference a year makes, last January I was a Gardens Manager with PrimaFlora Design & Build (Paul Pollard's company, also an ex-Kewite) in Surrey. Now, having emigrated to Australia with my wife, I find myself as Curator of three Botanic Gardens in Townsville, Tropical North Queensland. If nothing else the contrast in climate is extreme. Townsville is located firmly within the Dry Tropics,

with 70% of rainfall in summer (January-March), often of high intensity and short duration. Summers are hot and humid; however the remaining nine months are ideal with daytime winter temperatures reaching 24°C, and dropping to 14°C at night in July.

The three gardens comprise of a Palmetum, a Bicentennial Garden (1988) of 17 hectares that has a range of habitats to suit flora originating from the dry tropics through to the wet tropical lowlands. The **palm** collection is one of the finest in Australia, approximately 60 species are native, most are represented; the entire collection contains over 300 species, covering a wide genera from different habitats. *Pandanaceae* is also well represented. Queen's Garden covers over four hectares and was initiated in 1870. It is a fine example of a tropical colonial garden of that era and is based on economic plants (fruit and timber) as it was initially established as a trial garden for European settlement. The emphasis on the plant collection is on ornamental plants with either colourful, attractive foliage or flowers. Tropical flowering trees, climbers and *Heliconias* are particularly spectacular. Anderson Park is an arboretum containing fine specimens of tropical trees, **palms** and *Pandanus*. Of particular note is an area devoted to tropical fruit and economic plants and a representative collection of Cape York Peninsula rainforest plants. The cultivated collection of *Pandanus* is renowned as the largest in any Botanic Garden.

Key objectives of my position are to promote, display and improve botanical collections that reflect the climate and biological diversity of the North Queensland region, whilst raising the standard of presentation, interpretation and education to ensure that in future the gardens are an even greater tourist attraction to Townsville.

Lifestyle in the Queensland tropics is hard to beat; outdoor opportunities are endless, from cycling the Great Dividing Mountain Range to bush walking in World Heritage Rainforest, from sailing on crystal clear waters to diving on the Great Barrier Reef, the list seems endless . . .

NEWS FROM CANADA: OUR MAN IN VANCOUVER

by Roy Forster

Since the Tsunami disaster in Asia, we on the West Coast have been wondering when our turn will come – not if but when. The Juan de Fuca tectonic plate and the North American plate meet about 100 kilometres off our coast. The giant wave will arrive in about 20 minutes. The subduction zone has been stuck since 1700 when the last major undersea quake occurred (9pm, January 26 according to Japanese calculations).

Villages of indigenous people on our outer coast were devastated. The archaeology shows there have been seven Tsunami's in the last three millenia. Fortunately the major coastal cities of Victoria and Vancouver will have some protection given by the offshore islands. An unpleasant hint of what might happen occurred in 1964 when the force nine Alaska quake made a Tsunami that caused major damage at Port Alberni on Vancouver Island.

with 70% of rainfall in summer (January-March), often of high intensity and short duration. Summers are hot and humid; however the remaining nine months are ideal with daytime winter temperatures reaching 24°C, and dropping to 14°C at night in July.

The three gardens comprise of a Palmetum, a Bicentennial Garden (1988) of 17 hectares that has a range of habitats to suit flora originating from the dry tropics through to the wet tropical lowlands. The **palm** collection is one of the finest in Australia, approximately 60 species are native, most are represented; the entire collection contains over 300 species, covering a wide genera from different habitats. *Pandanaceae* is also well represented. Queen's Garden covers over four hectares and was initiated in 1870. It is a fine example of a tropical colonial garden of that era and is based on economic plants (fruit and timber) as it was initially established as a trial garden for European settlement. The emphasis on the plant collection is on ornamental plants with either colourful, attractive foliage or flowers. Tropical flowering trees, climbers and *Heliconias* are particularly spectacular. Anderson Park is an arboretum containing fine specimens of tropical trees, **palms** and *Pandanus*. Of particular note is an area devoted to tropical fruit and economic plants and a representative collection of Cape York Peninsula rainforest plants. The cultivated collection of *Pandanus* is renowned as the largest in any Botanic Garden.

Key objectives of my position are to promote, display and improve botanical collections that reflect the climate and biological diversity of the North Queensland region, whilst raising the standard of presentation, interpretation and education to ensure that in future the gardens are an even greater tourist attraction to Townsville.

Lifestyle in the Queensland tropics is hard to beat; outdoor opportunities are endless, from cycling the Great Dividing Mountain Range to bush walking in World Heritage Rainforest, from sailing on crystal clear waters to diving on the Great Barrier Reef, the list seems endless . . .

NEWS FROM CANADA: OUR MAN IN VANCOUVER

by Roy Forster

Since the Tsunami disaster in Asia, we on the West Coast have been wondering when our turn will come – not if but when. The Juan de Fuca tectonic plate and the North American plate meet about 100 kilometres off our coast. The giant wave will arrive in about 20 minutes. The subduction zone has been stuck since 1700 when the last major undersea quake occurred (9pm, January 26 according to Japanese calculations).

Villages of indigenous people on our outer coast were devastated. The archaeology shows there have been seven Tsunami's in the last three millenia. Fortunately the major coastal cities of Victoria and Vancouver will have some protection given by the offshore islands. An unpleasant hint of what might happen occurred in 1964 when the force nine Alaska quake made a Tsunami that caused major damage at Port Alberni on Vancouver Island.

At the time Captain Cook arrived at Nootka Sound on our coast in 1778 there was a thriving indigenous culture with well-developed arts, and large ocean-going canoes made of giant *Thuja plicata* logs. These magnificent boats made possible the hunting of whales on the open ocean.

Canada's most ancient trees, the **Nootka cypress**, *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis*, are named for the indigenous people he encountered.

These great trees were discovered by Archibald Menzies in 1793 but not introduced until about 1853 (W. J. Bean). Other reports give the date as 1840 when David Douglas sent seeds from Oregon. The oldest trees are in the Caren range of mountains on the mainland and are thought to be about 2000 years old. These ancient trees have survived over a century of logging because of their remote location. The importance of these forests was brought into sharp focus in the 1990's, when it was discovered that high in their moss-covered branches nested the endangered marbled murrelet, a mysterious marine bird that is related to the auks. Last summer I had the pleasure of visiting some of the oldest trees and watching the Murrelets fishing in the same waters sailed by James Cook and later George Vancouver's ship the Discovery with Menzies on board in 1793.

Menzies was recommended for the task of ships surgeon and botanist by Joseph Banks, the defacto Director of Kew. Unfortunately most of Menzies' living collections were lost when the sailor assigned to cover the protective enclosure on deck was taken away for other duties. The botanist's protests were met by the strict discipline of George Vancouver as insubordination. He might have fared better under Bligh, but not on the Bounty! Bad feelings were inflamed further when on his return to England, he was denied the reward of publishing his journals, which, with his plant collections, were put at the disposal of Vancouver. It is interesting to note that apparently, the botanists on board Cook's second voyage, Johann Forster and son George were also treated rather shabbily by the Admiralty. Forster senior's uncompromising style and his radical political views may have had something to do with it.

The following was provided by Douglas Justice, Curator of Plant Collections, UBC Botanical Garden

The Pacific Northwest is getting a long-overdue infusion of high-powered botanical scholarship with the addition of Quentin Cronk to the University Botanical Gardens in Vancouver and David Mabberley to the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle.

Quentin C. B. Cronk is director of UBC Botanical Garden and Centre for Plant Research. Since coming to Vancouver in 2002, he has made great strides in strengthening the foundations and academic mission of the Botanical Garden. Prior to his arrival at UBC, Dr. Cronk held positions in vascular plant systematics at the Institute for Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Edinburgh and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. He is the author of a number of books, ranging from *The Endemic Flora of St. Helena* to the co-authored *Plant Invaders: The Threat to Natural Ecosystems* and *Developmental Genetics and Plant Evolution*.

David J. Mabberley is a former Dean at Oxford. He is currently a professor at the University of Leiden, but also works with Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens and on many international projects. Mabberley is an expert taxonomist and has written 14 books including the indispensable, *The Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants* and *Ferdinand Bauer: the Nature of Discovery*.

Dr. Mabberley has been hired as director of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum. He will join the faculty at UW as professor of economic botany in the College of Forest Resources and hold the UW's Orin and Althea Soest Chair in Horticultural Science.

Justice, C.L. (2000). *Mr. Menzies' Garden Legacy*. Vancouver: Cavendish Books.

Thomas, N. and Berghof, O., eds. (1999). *A Voyage Around The World, George Forster*. University of Hawaii Press.

More on <http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/research/cronk.php>

WILLIAM HUGH GOWER (1835-1894): LINKING THE OLD WITH THE NEW

by Colin Hindmarch

Recently, I stumbled across William Hugh Gower's obituary while searching for the Guild website (www.kewguild.org.uk). It was published in the 1896 edition of the *Kew Guild Journal*, but had drifted into cyberspace by way of a genealogy resource set up by his great, great grandson, Colonel James Gower.

This 'hit' was timely for me: I had recently been discussing the cataloguing and conservation of Guild archives with David Hardman and Michele Losse, and was

also thinking about Christopher Weddell's exciting new plans for the Guild's web site. These are important initiatives that involve the allocation of considerable time and money.

When Colonel Gower was approached about his great, great grandfather, he 'regretted' having little material except a copy his book *Orchids for Amateurs* and a letter written by him to Charles Darwin (23 Nov 1861). Colonel Gower also thought that he may have had a number of **orchids** named after him. Plant names! Publication! Letter to Darwin! History or not, the situation gripped my attention.

Michele Losse, one of Kew's archivists, took over at this point, and with her



Colonel James Gower, great, great grandson of William Hugh Gower.

David J. Mabberley is a former Dean at Oxford. He is currently a professor at the University of Leiden, but also works with Sydney's Royal Botanic Gardens and on many international projects. Mabberley is an expert taxonomist and has written 14 books including the indispensable, *The Plant-Book: A Portable Dictionary of the Vascular Plants* and *Ferdinand Bauer: the Nature of Discovery*.

Dr. Mabberley has been hired as director of the University of Washington's Center for Urban Horticulture and Seattle's Washington Park Arboretum. He will join the faculty at UW as professor of economic botany in the College of Forest Resources and hold the UW's Orin and Althea Soest Chair in Horticultural Science.

Justice, C.L. (2000). *Mr. Menzies' Garden Legacy*. Vancouver: Cavendish Books.

Thomas, N. and Berghof, O., eds. (1999). *A Voyage Around The World, George Forster*. University of Hawaii Press.

More on <http://www.ubcbotanicalgarden.org/research/cronk.php>

WILLIAM HUGH GOWER (1835-1894): LINKING THE OLD WITH THE NEW

by Colin Hindmarch

Recently, I stumbled across William Hugh Gower's obituary while searching for the Guild website (www.kewguild.org.uk). It was published in the 1896 edition of the *Kew Guild Journal*, but had drifted into cyberspace by way of a genealogy resource set up by his great, great grandson, Colonel James Gower.

This 'hit' was timely for me: I had recently been discussing the cataloguing and conservation of Guild archives with David Hardman and Michele Losse, and was

also thinking about Christopher Weddell's exciting new plans for the Guild's web site. These are important initiatives that involve the allocation of considerable time and money.

When Colonel Gower was approached about his great, great grandfather, he 'regretted' having little material except a copy his book *Orchids for Amateurs* and a letter written by him to Charles Darwin (23 Nov 1861). Colonel Gower also thought that he may have had a number of **orchids** named after him. Plant names! Publication! Letter to Darwin! History or not, the situation gripped my attention.

Michele Losse, one of Kew's archivists, took over at this point, and with her



Colonel James Gower, great, great grandson of William Hugh Gower.

colleague, Karyn Stuckey, secured more information. This came from two main sources, *Authors of Plant Names* (Brummitt and Powell, 1992) and *The Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists* (Desmond, 1994), and was added to by Phillip Cribb and Nigel Hepper.

Although William H. Gower is listed in *Plants Names Dictionary*, and thus a plant name 'authority', searches of Kew's records were unable to unearth any names or varieties.

The Dictionary of Botanists was more helpful, giving a brief biography. He was born in 1835, died in 1894, and his last address was reported as 3 Alma Cottages, Birkersteth, Tooting, Graveney. Nothing is known of his early career, but he was Foreman of Kew's **Orchid** and **Fern** Department until 1865, when he left to work at Jackson & Sons Nursery in Kingston. Kew's staff records for the period are not very detailed and gave no further information on either William H. Gower or Jackson & Sons.

The Dictionary of Botanists also confirmed that William H. Gower had not only written *Orchids for Amateurs* (c.1879), but had contributed articles to a number of other publications, namely: *Gardens* vol. 46 (1894); *Orchid Review* (1894); *Horticultural Cottage Gardener* vol. 29 (1894), and *Select Orchidaceous Plants* (1862, 1865, 1878).

A further web search picked up an entry in Sotheran's catalogue showing that William Hugh Gower had also provided botanical descriptions for *The Orchid Album* (1883-97). This was published by The Victoria and Paradise Nurseries, Upper Holloway and included "superb" coloured plates by John Nugent Fitch, who also illustrated for the *Curtis Botanical Magazine*, as did his father. The 'lot' was priced at £16,000, despite being slightly damaged and having only 10 of the 11 volumes. When I visited Southeran's shop a few weeks later, it had been sold.

For me, the significance of my uncertain and somewhat reluctant excursion into the arcane realms of genealogy and archives was that it turned on an entry in an old *Kew Guild Journal*, took relatively little time, yet, in a modest way, informed both the Kew Archive and the records of Colonel Gower. This hinted at the likely importance of the Guild's current push to safeguard and catalogue its archives and make its *Journal* available to the Worldwide Web (www.kewguild.org.uk).

I would like to acknowledge the important contributions that Michelle Losse, Karyn Stuckey, Nigel Hepper, Phillip Cribb and James Gower made to the development of this article.

Desmond, R. (1994). *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and Horticulturalists : including plant collectors, flower painters and garden designers.* Ray Desmond with the assistance of Christine Ellwood, introduction by William T. Stearn; London : Taylor & Francis Ltd and The Natural History Museum, 1994. ISBN 0850668433.

Brummitt R. K. Powell C.E. (1992). *Authors of Plant Names*; Royal Botanic Gardens Kew; ISBN 094764344 3.

BLANK CANVAS VERSUS ESTABLISHED COLLECTION

by Wolfgang Bopp

I recently gave a talk about the National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW) at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. The audience was very interested, but one comment that was made in private afterwards, was that it was a shame for Hillier Gardens not to have big undeveloped areas such as at NBGW. Is it a shame or not?

Working at the NBGW, being part of the team developing and building a wonderful garden has been a great experience. There was the thrill of getting involved in the broad implementation of a master plan; being part of the development process for a major glasshouse; walled garden and phyto-geographical plantings. It was an immense amount of fun, but at the same time a great responsibility. We had two and a half years from the day I arrived to the opening in May 2000. Not a single plant was in the ground and virtually none of the infrastructure in place. It frequently seemed that by the time the hard landscaping was completed there would be little time to get any plants in the ground! From memory, we had something like 40,000 herbaceous plants being contract grown for us and other plants besides. While there was the dream of starting the collections with known source plants from day one, the hard reality on the ground was that we had to have a good visual presentation that was worthy of the entry fee from day one. Thus we did source a lot of commercial species and cultivars.

The Great Glasshouse is the focal point of the Garden and, with its concept of covering all mediterranean habitats of the world, was a major challenge in itself, needing to look good from the moment the doors were opened. These plants are rarely available as large specimens in the UK or Europe. Some you can find but others had to come as seed or young plants. We sourced from California, South Africa and Australia. Even then the plants arrived very small, quarantine had to be for a minimum of 6 months and we then elected to keep them 12 to 18 months to be sure of nothing being introduced into the display house. As the days of opening came closer, everybody but everybody asked the same questions, "Wolfgang, will this be in flower in June?" and, "Where are the plants?" (when what they really meant was, "We can still see soil!?!")? Since many commonly used annuals and bedding plants come from these target areas, for the first year, we direct-seeded large parts of the Great Glasshouse with annuals and that gave it the colour lift it needed to be a great success. Working with a largely blank canvas is a great challenge but the driving forces for doing it quicker and quicker are immense. The results can be spectacular, as the NBGW and EDEN have shown, but you are constantly chasing your tail!

The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens on the other hand is an established collection. In many people's minds this household name has been there for a long time, even forever. Surprisingly not so, it is only 52 years old with 180 acres of trees, shrubs and companion plantings. Not much space for development, some might say. But I'd say they're wrong, there is plenty of room for development, it is just on a different scale. This year we are adding an Education Garden as an outdoor learning classroom, in

BLANK CANVAS VERSUS ESTABLISHED COLLECTION

by Wolfgang Bopp

I recently gave a talk about the National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW) at the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. The audience was very interested, but one comment that was made in private afterwards, was that it was a shame for Hillier Gardens not to have big undeveloped areas such as at NBGW. Is it a shame or not?

Working at the NBGW, being part of the team developing and building a wonderful garden has been a great experience. There was the thrill of getting involved in the broad implementation of a master plan; being part of the development process for a major glasshouse; walled garden and phyto-geographical plantings. It was an immense amount of fun, but at the same time a great responsibility. We had two and a half years from the day I arrived to the opening in May 2000. Not a single plant was in the ground and virtually none of the infrastructure in place. It frequently seemed that by the time the hard landscaping was completed there would be little time to get any plants in the ground! From memory, we had something like 40,000 herbaceous plants being contract grown for us and other plants besides. While there was the dream of starting the collections with known source plants from day one, the hard reality on the ground was that we had to have a good visual presentation that was worthy of the entry fee from day one. Thus we did source a lot of commercial species and cultivars.

The Great Glasshouse is the focal point of the Garden and, with its concept of covering all mediterranean habitats of the world, was a major challenge in itself, needing to look good from the moment the doors were opened. These plants are rarely available as large specimens in the UK or Europe. Some you can find but others had to come as seed or young plants. We sourced from California, South Africa and Australia. Even then the plants arrived very small, quarantine had to be for a minimum of 6 months and we then elected to keep them 12 to 18 months to be sure of nothing being introduced into the display house. As the days of opening came closer, everybody but everybody asked the same questions, "Wolfgang, will this be in flower in June?" and, "Where are the plants?" (when what they really meant was, "We can still see soil!?!")? Since many commonly used annuals and bedding plants come from these target areas, for the first year, we direct-seeded large parts of the Great Glasshouse with annuals and that gave it the colour lift it needed to be a great success. Working with a largely blank canvas is a great challenge but the driving forces for doing it quicker and quicker are immense. The results can be spectacular, as the NBGW and EDEN have shown, but you are constantly chasing your tail!

The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens on the other hand is an established collection. In many people's minds this household name has been there for a long time, even forever. Surprisingly not so, it is only 52 years old with 180 acres of trees, shrubs and companion plantings. Not much space for development, some might say. But I'd say they're wrong, there is plenty of room for development, it is just on a different scale. This year we are adding an Education Garden as an outdoor learning classroom, in

which the children will participate in the final planting and detail design. There are also many changes to other parts of the garden; 'tweaking' as we all do in our own gardens. Being an established collection, pressure of filling what is seen to be blank spaces is not there, so one can concentrate more on refining schemes, continuing the development of the collection, and reviewing plans such as the 50-year master plan, which is currently under way. These are equally exciting aspects of the work, giving staff and visitors more subtle changes to look forward to each year and moving the garden ahead all the time by keeping it dynamic and a little closer to the time frame of nature.

When you have been fortunate to have been involved in the development of a new botanic garden such as the NBGW, you often look at other examples and try to analyse how things have changed. The RHS Garden Rosemoor had to my knowledge a 10-year development programme. Fifteen years later, both EDEN and NBGW took three years or less to develop their gardens before a grand opening. As a society we are more and more expectant of instant results (You can try blaming the television, or our consumer society, it makes no odds; it's just the way it is!). But it does make me wonder if, in 10 years time, the expectation will be there for such schemes to be implemented even faster? Or will we have gone full circle by then?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KEW GUILD

by F. Nigel Hepper

Of the million people who visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, every year probably not one will have heard of the Kew Guild. Perchance someone sheltering from the rain in the Temple of Arethusa near the Victoria Gate Visitor Centre may have noticed that the War Memorial plaque was donated by the Kew Guild. So what is this Guild? When it was founded in 1893 it was defined as 'an association of past and present members of staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew'; members were popularly known as 'Kewites' (although this term actually refers to anyone who worked at Kew, whether Guild members or not). The motto 'Floreant Kew' ('May Kew flourish') was also adopted.

For many years membership was carefully restricted to men and women who held some horticultural responsibility in the Gardens, including the Student Gardeners (now called Diploma Students at the School of Horticulture), then later administrators and scientific staff. Gradually it was widened to anyone who had been on the staff for 12 months or more, such as overseas research botanists who wanted to maintain contact with Kew when they returned home. An annual *Journal* has been published ever since its foundation (with some issues reduced or unpublished during the wars).

So it was to the *Journal* of the Kew Guild that Ray Desmond and I turned when a centenary volume about the Guild was to be issued to celebrate its centenary, in 1993. Ray Desmond is a former Chief Librarian and Archivist and the author of the

which the children will participate in the final planting and detail design. There are also many changes to other parts of the garden; 'tweaking' as we all do in our own gardens. Being an established collection, pressure of filling what is seen to be blank spaces is not there, so one can concentrate more on refining schemes, continuing the development of the collection, and reviewing plans such as the 50-year master plan, which is currently under way. These are equally exciting aspects of the work, giving staff and visitors more subtle changes to look forward to each year and moving the garden ahead all the time by keeping it dynamic and a little closer to the time frame of nature.

When you have been fortunate to have been involved in the development of a new botanic garden such as the NBGW, you often look at other examples and try to analyse how things have changed. The RHS Garden Rosemoor had to my knowledge a 10-year development programme. Fifteen years later, both EDEN and NBGW took three years or less to develop their gardens before a grand opening. As a society we are more and more expectant of instant results (You can try blaming the television, or our consumer society, it makes no odds; it's just the way it is!). But it does make me wonder if, in 10 years time, the expectation will be there for such schemes to be implemented even faster? Or will we have gone full circle by then?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KEW GUILD

by F. Nigel Hepper

Of the million people who visit the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, every year probably not one will have heard of the Kew Guild. Perchance someone sheltering from the rain in the Temple of Arethusa near the Victoria Gate Visitor Centre may have noticed that the War Memorial plaque was donated by the Kew Guild. So what is this Guild? When it was founded in 1893 it was defined as 'an association of past and present members of staff of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew'; members were popularly known as 'Kewites' (although this term actually refers to anyone who worked at Kew, whether Guild members or not). The motto 'Floreat Kew' ('May Kew flourish') was also adopted.

For many years membership was carefully restricted to men and women who held some horticultural responsibility in the Gardens, including the Student Gardeners (now called Diploma Students at the School of Horticulture), then later administrators and scientific staff. Gradually it was widened to anyone who had been on the staff for 12 months or more, such as overseas research botanists who wanted to maintain contact with Kew when they returned home. An annual *Journal* has been published ever since its foundation (with some issues reduced or unpublished during the wars).

So it was to the *Journal* of the Kew Guild that Ray Desmond and I turned when a centenary volume about the Guild was to be issued to celebrate its centenary, in 1993. Ray Desmond is a former Chief Librarian and Archivist and the author of the

definitive history of Kew. As a research botanist in the Herbarium I was Honorary Secretary of the Guild for some years and then president in 1991-92. The *Journal* is an archive in its own right and contains fascinating articles, as well as biographies and obituaries of Kewites. Some of the early articles were reminiscences going way back into the nineteenth century long before the foundation of the Guild. Fortunately, in the *Journal* of 1943, there was an article entitled 'The first fifty years' to celebrate the Guild's half centenary and gave detailed history thus far and we brought the story up to date. A selection of other interesting articles was made and we prepared an anthology illustrated with historic photographs from the Library Archives (1).

Since the Second World War the membership of the Guild has been rather static with a few hundred members out of many thousand eligible. Nevertheless the Guild has developed in several ways. For many years annual prizes and cups have been awarded to Kew Students, whether officially Kew Guild members or not. Then in the 1970s an Awards Scheme was launched with an appeal for capital (now about £77,000) from which the interest could be used to finance worthy projects applied for by members. Inevitably, most of these projects are by students who propose to visit foreign botanical gardens or study certain plants in their native habitats. But the Scheme is open to any member and increasingly small grants are made for study courses and to older Kewites for suitable projects. For some years a blind Kewite was funded by an award and brought to the Annual Dinner.

The Annual Dinner traditionally coincided with the Chelsea Flower Show when it was to be expected that Kewites who lived outside London would be in town. When Sir William Thiselton-Dyer was Director he presided at the first Dinner in 1900, and in following years there were some notable botanists of the day such as Dr D.H.Scott, Dr Augustine Henry and Dr Daydon Jackson. However, for many years the current Guild president has taken the chair. Guests of honour from outside Kew were and still are invited to give a witty and hopefully concise speech. When the dinner was held at the restaurant at Victoria Station there were sometimes audible announcements of train times and embarrassing break-ins to the PA system just as the loyal toast was taking place. Nowadays the dinner and annual general meeting are held in the Gardens where there are now splendid facilities for entertainment. It seems incredible that for many years a full dinner could be had for a few shillings, whereas nowadays it costs over £30, with a large discount granted to students. Similarly the annual subscription, which is essentially for the *Journal*, has risen from 1s to 2s6d, then 5s and by now to £15.

In 1962 new armorial bearings and badge based on drawings by Stella Ross-Craig, a well-known Kew botanical artist, were prepared by J. P. Brook-Little, Bluemantle Pursuivant at the College of Arms and approved by the Garter King of Arms. The historical description of the arms published, together with plates in colour in that year's *Journal*, is so informative that it is worthwhile reproducing it here in full:

"The shield bears two crowns which symbolise the two royal gardens that together form the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (see note following); the silver flaunches



The armorial bearings of the Kew Guild issued in 1962. Reproduced from the *Journal of the Kew Guild* 8(67): 132-133 (1962).

on either side of the shield represent the New and Old Worlds and upon them are the flames of learning, from which members of the Guild disperse to all parts of the world carrying with them the knowledge gained at Kew; the blue ground of the shield represents the seas which separate the New World from the Old and also the sky above the Gardens; the silver band or 'fesse' in the middle of the shield linking the two flanches bears a vine stem which is symbolic of the Guild itself whose purpose is to link together its members wherever they may be. The Mantling which flows from the helm is composed of the Guild colours, gold and green. The crest, a hand holding a shoot of **oak** and a fruiting branch of **Cinchona**, symbolises the main concern of members of the Guild, namely plants in general and the growing of plants, in particular, plants of the temperate regions of the earth being represented by the **oak** and those of the tropics by the **Cinchona** – the latter, the source of quinine – is also a reminder of the part Kew has played in

disseminating economic plants, especially to the tropics. Beneath the shield is the motto 'Floreat Kew'."

[**Note:** Namely the garden of Richmond Lodge, which was the property of George II and Queen Caroline, and the garden of Kew House which belonged to their son Frederick, Prince of Wales, and his consort Augusta. It was in the garden of Kew House that Princess Augusta formed a botanic garden in 1759. Richmond Lodge passed to George III when he succeeded his grandfather in 1760 and he inherited Kew House when his mother, Princess Augusta, died in 1772. The two properties were separated by Love Lane, the ancient bridle way from Richmond Palace to the horse-ferry across the Thames between Kew and Brentford and, in 1802, after many years of effort, George III succeeded in closing Love Lane and incorporating it into the two gardens so that they formed a single demesne.]

Charity status was accorded to the Guild in 1964 (No.306064). Then in 1991 HRH Princess Alexandra, who lives nearby in Richmond Park, kindly agreed to become patron. Readers will note that Kew Guild is a fellowship of Kewites rather than an 'old boy' network. It follows a noble tradition as it heads for its second centenary, yet adapting to current conditions. One of the grand rooms in historic Hunter House, the core of the Herbarium which is an important botanical research

department off Kew Green, has been designated 'The Guild Room' where committee meetings are held and some of the archives are stored. Very recently certificates of membership have been issued for the first time and now a website has been launched, www.kewguild.org.uk.

Desmond, R. and Hepper, F.N. (1993). *A Century of Kew Plantsmen*. Kew: Kew Guild.

Journal of the Kew Guild 8(67): 132-133 (1962)

THE KEW GUILD NOW AND THEN: AN OVERVIEW

by Graham Burgess

I was asked to research the *Kew Guild Journals* and differences between the same elements 100 and 50 years ago. Before I do this I will take an overview as I see it.

The years of dealing with Guild matters and returning to the *Journals* old and new has left me with a distilled view of what has been happening. I have travelled from the wealth of our country to the relative poverty of where the tropical climate, with its long hours of intense sunshine, contributes to much greater volumes of biomass generation and some of this biomass manifesting as crops. In the times of our colonies there was a little reverse investment into the infrastructure of the colonial realms but it was not a priority and the future was not really considered beyond the perpetuation of growing regimes that enjoyed longer hours of insolation and the exploitation of cheaper labour, sometimes no cost labour.

I am heartened to see the efforts of Christian Aid and other truly charitable organisations growing in strength and volume but the empowerment of indigenous peoples is a massive challenge and the powers of the commercial market much cleverer. The government is at last seeking to improve the infrastructure in Africa for the benefit of the inhabitants.

Many of the **sugar**-growing areas of the tropics and the mineral mining zones have never included the processing plants where significant added value is accrued, so the regions remain relatively poor. The predominance of **tea** as a crop in our colonies and **coffee** in the French colonies led to the afternoon repasts of my youth being **tea**. Before globalisation really came into being many aspects of a country's economy expressed via its colonies was quite hermetic.

The invention of the atomic bomb led to the end of local wars as anyone participating could easily be affected at home and literally be destroyed. So could their families. Large-scale local wars can no longer be initiated with impunity.

Air transport and better road-transport allows fresh crops to be distributed far more efficiently throughout the world. At home our choice of beverages is expanded and **lettuce** and shellfish to name a few are flown and shipped across the world.

department off Kew Green, has been designated 'The Guild Room' where committee meetings are held and some of the archives are stored. Very recently certificates of membership have been issued for the first time and now a website has been launched, www.kewguild.org.uk.

Desmond, R. and Hepper, F.N. (1993). *A Century of Kew Plantsmen*. Kew: Kew Guild.

Journal of the Kew Guild 8(67): 132-133 (1962)

THE KEW GUILD NOW AND THEN: AN OVERVIEW

by Graham Burgess

I was asked to research the *Kew Guild Journals* and differences between the same elements 100 and 50 years ago. Before I do this I will take an overview as I see it.

The years of dealing with Guild matters and returning to the *Journals* old and new has left me with a distilled view of what has been happening. I have travelled from the wealth of our country to the relative poverty of where the tropical climate, with its long hours of intense sunshine, contributes to much greater volumes of biomass generation and some of this biomass manifesting as crops. In the times of our colonies there was a little reverse investment into the infrastructure of the colonial realms but it was not a priority and the future was not really considered beyond the perpetuation of growing regimes that enjoyed longer hours of insolation and the exploitation of cheaper labour, sometimes no cost labour.

I am heartened to see the efforts of Christian Aid and other truly charitable organisations growing in strength and volume but the empowerment of indigenous peoples is a massive challenge and the powers of the commercial market much cleverer. The government is at last seeking to improve the infrastructure in Africa for the benefit of the inhabitants.

Many of the **sugar**-growing areas of the tropics and the mineral mining zones have never included the processing plants where significant added value is accrued, so the regions remain relatively poor. The predominance of **tea** as a crop in our colonies and **coffee** in the French colonies led to the afternoon repasts of my youth being **tea**. Before globalisation really came into being many aspects of a country's economy expressed via its colonies was quite hermetic.

The invention of the atomic bomb led to the end of local wars as anyone participating could easily be affected at home and literally be destroyed. So could their families. Large-scale local wars can no longer be initiated with impunity.

Air transport and better road-transport allows fresh crops to be distributed far more efficiently throughout the world. At home our choice of beverages is expanded and **lettuce** and shellfish to name a few are flown and shipped across the world.

The diversity of product once available to a few in this country now permeates all levels of society as all seek the Edwardian idyll, but the trend worldwide is towards erosion of species diversity.

When I entered Kew I saw the early stages of a decline in botanical gardens that were once important engines of economic exploitation and benefit. With the initial work on **rubber** done the old quarantine house was destroyed and gradually the science moved away from the plant tissues drawn from the plant collections to samples studied in test tubes and electron microscopes. The focus of the collections became vague yet the inherited power and influence of certain purist taxonomists led to the retention of interesting "whim" collections. The **Berberis** Dell was an example of this.

Of course this 'collector gardener' impulse is valuable for it is one route to understanding species diversity and maybe retaining it, but who is going to finance it? Which plants should be included in this ever more expensive to maintain database? If you want to look at a species then no longer is it an expedition consisting of weeks of travel and months in the wild, it is a flight from Heathrow and Bingo you are there the next day at a fraction of the cost.

I was still on a botanics career when I won the Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship to study the Amenity Function in Botanic Gardens and Zoos in Europe. As I saw it the only respite for such places in the future would be the device of appealing to the general public, those who paid the taxes and who hold to some extent the future of Botanic Gardens in their hands. Changes took place in Europe before they took place here. The Order Bed changed from purely a library of taxonomic richness and diversity to a collection of garden plants suitable for amateurs to grow in the city (Gothenburg BG). At Berlin Dahlem a dry area of **grasses** spoke in the visual language of landscape not the taxonomic language of taxonomy. At Kew indoor collections were landscaped and I saw many plants die due to the removal of individual pots and finely, tuned, individual watering regimes. That did not matter.

The introduction of lightweight, more hygienic and uniform plastic pots led to the destruction of the old recyclable clay pots.

It goes without saying that all plants respond to loving care and it is that aspect of the Kew heritage that appeals to me most. It has always been at the core of husbandry regardless of the economic forces. At a deep psychological level mankind is positively predisposed to all things green and most are positively predisposed to plants and flowers. It's a lifeline and one that needs to be held whilst we educate people on some of the key social factors so far as species diversity, including our own survival, depends. In the UK the gardening hobby has a broad economic base. It has not however progressed much beyond the collector-gardening system that manifests itself supremely in traditional botanic gardens. Many lawns are comprised of cultivars bred in Aberyswyth for farmers, so as soon as it is cut with petrol-consuming mowers it starts to grow again for the next grazing or mowing. In the third world proven concepts like permaculture still find little support.

I think one of the purest examples of good work was that explained by David Cutler after the 2004 Kew Guild AGM. The analysis of ancient techniques of wood collection and burning for the simple domestic hearth in Zimbabwe and the subsequent propagation and planting out of trial plantations. It works. What if this could be done worldwide and then basic fuel-burning technologies introduced that could empower local industry on top of domestic survival. The simple logical pathways to a richer fairer world with cultures imbued with charitable mores will be the only way to prevent various sorts of warfare.

Once, as I sat at the foot of the great spring that bursts forth from under Jericho drinking tea made with **water mint**, I gazed around and sensed a pointless degradation of human development. My host, safe in Jerusalem, sadly now deceased, had chaired the committee that built the Hebrew University and, even all those years ago, was horrified that I had been to Jericho alone. The spring was flowing but the great system of irrigated farmland had virtually gone. The inhabitants now become desperate.

Organisations like The Henry Doubleday Research Association have clung to species diversity and usefully in the area of edible fruits. The Soil Association builds upon ancient knowledge. The NCCPG encourages diversity but mainly through ornamental plants. All these organisations encourage the study of plants and good husbandry. Many other organisations think they know what they are doing but the quality of real training has taken a dive. In a recent *Which* organisation publication one of the photographs showed a tree-staking method that is positively destructive. The fashionable, young and enthusiastic team carries on in spite of criticism. I spoke earlier of how interpersonal aggression left diplomacy when the onset of war might have had guaranteed bad effects at home. The phrase that arose 'low profile' crept into industry and finally the foreman who entered into interpersonal conflict, if necessary, with his staff saying "cut that bed edge straight" or "make sure you prune that properly or else" was replaced with a supervisor who sought to "perhaps explain what is best for the organisation." As a management system it is more complex and not so crisp. Those who criticise the old regimes could convince me of the benefits of the new regimes if the end result was well-grown plants and straight lines. Often it is not.

Some will remember when the old parks departments held control of our urban landscapes. The paradisiacal concept of a park reigned supreme. That went by the board when the political, power-battle in local authorities was won by Architects and Planners. Parks Directors have had an uphill battle since. Only now are the Landscape Architects learning a bit more about plants, only a bit though. Every so often one sees a business-park sensitively graced with a rich assemblage of plants. *Metasequoias* are a favourite due to their ease of transplanting and relative low maintenance. Chiswick Business Park near Kew is a good example of what a Kew man can do in a tough, commercial environment.

The Garden Centres are now well-established retailing stores. All plants are in pots with few exceptions and associated trade spreads into areas outside gardening.

Shopping is a recreation and, as before, few know how large a plant will get in the next few years. We did research and discovered that the average person's knowledge of growth of a living thing is based on a human child. They are almost at maximum size at 14 years. Many supermarkets now sell florists flowers and pot plants so homes, as well as gardens, are being enriched.

The nursery business is international. *Nymphaeas* once cut in British lakes are being brought in more cheaply from China. Specimen shrubs and trees come from Italy, Spain and Belgium. Holland still has a large input into Britain and the trade includes bulbs; woody and herbaceous plants.

Time for gardening is reducing, though the hobby is growing economically. People work long hours and spend a lot of time travelling to work. Physical work is an anathema and the population is becoming more obese due to lack of regular exercise. There has been a trend towards unhealthy eating. The sales of garden/landscaping materials has increased and now many retailers show their products in a garden setting. The flower shows are established as fashionable entertainments.

The leisure industries and service industries thrive and the more successful ones are clever at achieving their success. People in this country love gardening and visiting gardens. The Royal Horticultural Society is thriving and The National Trust takes on more responsibility. One source of significant funding, the National Lottery, has facilitated various projects which, by virtue of the guaranteed no risk cash flow, have not been designed with sustainability in mind. These have folded after a short time with great waste of money. The Botanical Garden of Wales is one example. Kewites visited it and on the Saturday we were there we saw just two old ladies wandering through the feature glasshouse.

The Britain in Bloom competitions have had a marked effect. Hanging baskets can be seen on buildings and roadside railings and many are such a part of expected, everyday life they are not vandalised.

Perhaps the biggest change is the public access to information. The worldwide-web, with search engines such as Google, provide rapid access to pictures of plants and information about them. Many sites have virtual tours of their gardens.

The Kew Guild now has a website and this offers new opportunities for Kewites to indulge in fellowship.

Many Kewites still play a key role in all aspects of the plant-related industries and Kew itself still commands respect worldwide.

Now to some of the differences

In the financial year 1903-1904 the Kew Guild was had £93 12s 3d in its working account. Fifty years later it had risen to and £279 8s 3d. The capital account rose from £258 to £1,256.

We saw an increase in funding at various levels. In 1954 the Matilda Smith Fund stood at £34. There was a new Benevolent Fund (£144); The Watson Memorial

Fund (£152); the Dummer Memorial Fund (£51); the Proudlock Memorial Fund (£12); The Kew Guild Jubilee Permanent Security Fund (£635).

This charitable aspect of Guild life and fellowship was growing but in 1954 there was one person less at the Dinner than in 1904. This was made up for by two more people attending the AGM in 1954.

It was stated in 1904 that, "There is only one way to membership and that is through the Kew Certificate." Another weird comment was, "That we have no orphans as officially gardeners have no children."

In 1904 the average attendance at Mutualls was 44.18. This had dropped to 32.5 by 1954. I was interested to see this decimal measurement as it tells us they were into accuracy. I remember a Kewite murmuring that our predecessors bodged the attendance numbers at the gardens. This was following my writing some years ago about the four million plus attendance at Kew in 1915.

In 1903, 1,352,548 visitors passed through the gates and in 1954 11,100,305. The growth in consumerism, competition from other venues and more individual mobility, was beginning to have its effect. On June 1st 1903, 73,500 people entered Kew. On Easter Day in 1954, 46,000 visitors passed through. On December 8th 1954 four people came, what a quiet day that was.

The working hours were the same in 1904 as in 1954: 6.00am-6.00pm, six days a week. The pressure was great as the library was open from 7.00pm-10.00pm five evenings a week and five attendances per two weeks were mandatory. In 1904 a labourer was paid 18s a week. In 1954 composting experiments started.

Perhaps the greatest differences were to do with the colonial endeavours. F. S. Sillitoe writes from Khartoum in September 1904, of his 2,200-mile trip on the White Nile, "Herds of 25-30 hippopotami are plentiful and crocodiles abound, though to kill them is not easy." No mention of this sort of thing in 1954, quite the opposite. In 1904 D. Tannock reported on his trip in 1903 from Dominica, West Indies to Dunedin New Zealand. He commented upon the Kewites present at all the outposts on this journey as if it was the norm.

Anyone reading these early reports will develop wanderlust, I am sure. I got mine as a boy from reading the relatively un-exciting stories of Captain Hornblower. Seamen hardly ever went inland and it is the same today but Kewites explored everywhere. In an interesting letter from Uganda March 10th 1904 E. Brown says, "If one puts the material condition of these natives side by side with that of hundreds of thousands of Englishmen, the comparison is greatly in favour of the Buganda. They never feel the want of food or clothes and never suffer from cold." He speaks of one man being able to live off one eighth of his income.

In the Obituary section in 1904 four of the deceased wore ties, two wore bow ties. No faces are shown in 1954. A feature of the deaths of the early Kewites was disease and many died young. They were replaced of course by new Kewites cast in the same mould.

Perhaps as time progresses and the work on our archives develops some of you will find time to read the details of some of these early stories. They beat what you will read in many storybooks. We have access to many publications on gardening now, but in 1904 *The Gardeners Chronicle* was over 60 years old. It cost 15s i.e. only 3s less than a labourer's weekly wage. I pay basic labourers nearly a £100 a week now so do we pay £75 for it now?

YORKSHIRE CONNECTIONS

by John Simmons

William Jackson Bean C.V.O., I.S.O., V.M.H., stamped his lasting mark on horticulture through his classic work *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* that was first published in 1914, and still today, through all its many revisions, remains one of the most useful reference works on hardy woody plants. From 1958, when I started work in the Arboretum, Bean's work has had an unspoken influence on my life, and though his large portrait in oils gazed down on me for the many years that I was based in Descanso House, my interest in him was only more recently awakened by the realisation that he was born quite close to Castle Howard.

I have been fortunate in having responsibility for the direction of the Arboretum at Castle Howard (run as a joint and independent trust formed by RBG Kew and Castle Howard) for the past eight years and have been intrigued by the thought that just to the southeast, across the River Derwent and in the lee of the Yorkshire Wolds, arose a man that was to make a great contribution to Kew.

Though rightly famed for his encyclopaedic knowledge of trees and shrubs, Bean was also much involved with the Guild and wrote the first authoritative history of the gardens. The twenty first issue of this *Journal* (KGJ Vol.III, No.XX1, 1914, front piece and p2.) was dedicated to him and noted that he was the Guild's first Treasurer; from the commencement of the Guild until 1908, and also served as the Guild's Editor for five years. He was 82 when he died at his home in Mortlake Road in 1947 and the *Journal* carried a fulsome obituary (KGJ Vol.V1, No.L111, 1946 and 47, pp.598-600) by C. P. Raffill, that detailed his career at Kew from 1883 when he entered as a student. He spent time with the **orchid** collection, was Foreman of the **Palm** House, then Foreman of the Temperate Department (1887), Foreman of the Arboretum (1892), Assistant Curator of the Gardens (1900) and Curator from May 1922 to 1929. Bean was involved with creation of the **Bamboo** Garden and responsible for the many generic plantings of trees and shrubs that we know today. Of that time, according to Raffill, "his work made the collection of trees and shrubs unequalled in the world."

Born in May 1863 at a small house, Rose Garth, (garth derives from the Norse word for a closed yard, garden or paddock) in Leavening where his Father was a nurseryman, I was pleased to find that this house still stands, and that the present owner (to whom earlier, through another connection, I had sent information on

Perhaps as time progresses and the work on our archives develops some of you will find time to read the details of some of these early stories. They beat what you will read in many storybooks. We have access to many publications on gardening now, but in 1904 *The Gardeners Chronicle* was over 60 years old. It cost 15s i.e. only 3s less than a labourer's weekly wage. I pay basic labourers nearly a £100 a week now so do we pay £75 for it now?

YORKSHIRE CONNECTIONS

by John Simmons

William Jackson Bean C.V.O., I.S.O., V.M.H., stamped his lasting mark on horticulture through his classic work *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* that was first published in 1914, and still today, through all its many revisions, remains one of the most useful reference works on hardy woody plants. From 1958, when I started work in the Arboretum, Bean's work has had an unspoken influence on my life, and though his large portrait in oils gazed down on me for the many years that I was based in Descanso House, my interest in him was only more recently awakened by the realisation that he was born quite close to Castle Howard.

I have been fortunate in having responsibility for the direction of the Arboretum at Castle Howard (run as a joint and independent trust formed by RBG Kew and Castle Howard) for the past eight years and have been intrigued by the thought that just to the southeast, across the River Derwent and in the lee of the Yorkshire Wolds, arose a man that was to make a great contribution to Kew.

Though rightly famed for his encyclopaedic knowledge of trees and shrubs, Bean was also much involved with the Guild and wrote the first authoritative history of the gardens. The twenty first issue of this *Journal* (KGJ Vol.III, No.XX1, 1914, front piece and p2.) was dedicated to him and noted that he was the Guild's first Treasurer; from the commencement of the Guild until 1908, and also served as the Guild's Editor for five years. He was 82 when he died at his home in Mortlake Road in 1947 and the *Journal* carried a fulsome obituary (KGJ Vol.V1, No.L111, 1946 and 47, pp.598-600) by C. P. Raffill, that detailed his career at Kew from 1883 when he entered as a student. He spent time with the **orchid** collection, was Foreman of the **Palm** House, then Foreman of the Temperate Department (1887), Foreman of the Arboretum (1892), Assistant Curator of the Gardens (1900) and Curator from May 1922 to 1929. Bean was involved with creation of the **Bamboo** Garden and responsible for the many generic plantings of trees and shrubs that we know today. Of that time, according to Raffill, "his work made the collection of trees and shrubs unequalled in the world."

Born in May 1863 at a small house, Rose Garth, (garth derives from the Norse word for a closed yard, garden or paddock) in Leavening where his Father was a nurseryman, I was pleased to find that this house still stands, and that the present owner (to whom earlier, through another connection, I had sent information on

Bean) was keenly interested in the history of her house. It was thus, with the greatest pleasure, I found myself on an autumn day drinking coffee under the massive **oak** beam that spans the centre of the garth's main living room, reading the conveyance of title written when Bean sold the house and land in 1884, the year after he came to Kew. This conveyance also 'recites' the intestate death of Bean's father, George Bean, in April 1869 when Bean was not quite six years old, leaving him as 'eldest son and heir'.

In 1831 Robert Addison wrote *A Topographical History of Leavening* with his recollections of some 40 years of the village's life, and a map within shows a James or George Bean living in another house at the west end of the village. At the beginning of the nineteenth century the Lordship of Leavening was divided into small allotments or farms of from 10 to 100 acres and, "the inhabitants were few in number . . . Yet they lived in great harmony and peace together except two individuals namely George Bean and Joseph Robson"!



Rose Garth.

James Bean, father of George Bean and presumably grandfather of our William Bean (who records his father and grandfather were nurserymen) is described at some length by Addington who goes on to say, ". . . he was diligent and clever and was remarkable for having fine fruit: and though Scarbro was distant 30 miles from Leavening yet he failed not to visit that market twice a week during the fruit season. Leavening, was much visited in the fruit season by numerous visitors purposely to partake of Bean's garden produce, but I am sorry to say that this mostly happened



The garden at Rose Garth.

on a Sunday, which things ought not to have been"! By 1830 this garden had passed into the hands of others and the fruit trees had been destroyed.

Educated at Holgate School in York, and trained in fine gardens such as Belvoir Castle, Kew was to become Bean's 'Alma Mater.' He travelled widely in Britain and abroad, and gave long service to the RHS judging committee for trees and shrubs, receiving both the Veitch Memorial Medal and the V.M.H. in recognition of his work. Raffill gives the history of the oil painting of Bean by Ernest Moore, which was commissioned for an exhibition on famous Yorkshiremen in London, and then purchased by Major Reginald Loder for presentation to Kew on behalf of the Garden Club.

The Arboretum Trust at Castle Howard has its own website and we hope soon that it will include a piece on Bean and similarly when the new Visitor Centre is built we will have a small exhibition in which Bean will most surely feature.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

by Allan Hart

It is remarkable that at no time in the long history of the Guild has thought been given to recognising the privilege of membership with an illustrated certificate of registration. This in stark contrast to other professional organisations where certificates are automatically issued to elected members. The Guild decided in 2002 to remedy



The garden at Rose Garth.

on a Sunday, which things ought not to have been"! By 1830 this garden had passed into the hands of others and the fruit trees had been destroyed.

Educated at Holgate School in York, and trained in fine gardens such as Belvoir Castle, Kew was to become Bean's 'Alma Mater.' He travelled widely in Britain and abroad, and gave long service to the RHS judging committee for trees and shrubs, receiving both the Veitch Memorial Medal and the V.M.H. in recognition of his work. Raffill gives the history of the oil painting of Bean by Ernest Moore, which was commissioned for an exhibition on famous Yorkshiremen in London, and then purchased by Major Reginald Loder for presentation to Kew on behalf of the Garden Club.

The Arboretum Trust at Castle Howard has its own website and we hope soon that it will include a piece on Bean and similarly when the new Visitor Centre is built we will have a small exhibition in which Bean will most surely feature.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE

by Allan Hart

It is remarkable that at no time in the long history of the Guild has thought been given to recognising the privilege of membership with an illustrated certificate of registration. This in stark contrast to other professional organisations where certificates are automatically issued to elected members. The Guild decided in 2002 to remedy

this omission and approved a prototype design by Joan Hart, a long-term supporter of the Guild. The first certificates were issued in March 2003 to all fully subscribed members, and were received with many favourable and enthusiastic comments.



THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

.....

has been elected to

MEMBERSHIP

of the

KEW GUILD

founded in the year One thousand eight hundred and ninety two,
for the general advancement of horticultural and botanical science
through the strong ties of friendship and professional collaboration.

IN WITNESS whereof, the Common Seal has been affixed, at a
Meeting of the Committee, held at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

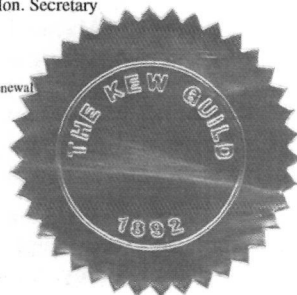
on theday of20

..... President

..... Hon. Secretary

Registered Serial No.

This Diploma is held subject to annual notification of its renewal
and under the conditions contained in the
Constitution of the Guild



NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2004

Compiled by J. R. Woodhams

Susyn Andrews wrote to say that in April 2003, after 27 years, she left the Herbarium, RBG Kew to become a consultant horticultural taxonomist. In May 2004, her book *The Genus **Lavandula***, which she co-authored with Tim Upson (Superintendent of the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden), was published and has received excellent reviews. In November 2004, she was awarded the Shiu-Ying Award by the **Holly** Society of America. This is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the genus ***Ilex*** through scholarly study and research, and who have disseminated this knowledge through teaching or publication in the *Holly Society Journal* or other technical or scientific media.

Her current contracts include verifying plants at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and their Harcourt Arboretum, as well as at the National Arboretum at Westonbirt.

Sandra Bell wrote to the compiler mid way through the year with information on a number of Kew people stating that both **Leigh Hunt** and **David Gardiner** had left their positions with *BBC Gardeners World Magazine*. David apparently now works as a freelance writer and Leigh has joined the RHS Advisory Team at Wisley where he is very happy. **Robert Brett** continues his work at the Cambridge Botanic Garden and is helping to found a new BG near Thessalonica in Greece. **John** and **Caroline Sitch**, Jack and Samuel are all fine, John managing a trip to Fairchild Botanic Garden last year.

Sandra wrote that **Dusha Hayes** made another visit to Brazil and has undertaken study to become an **orchid** judge. STOP-PRESS – Dusha is now a qualified **orchid** judge – Congratulations. Dusha contacted the compiler herself, noting that since her retirement from the Orchid Unit she has been very busy getting on with long-term projects in her own garden, including expanding her own **orchid** collection. Confirming her new status as a judge and her active role and a committee member of the Orchid Society of Great Britain, Dusha states, “I will be attending the World Orchid Congress in Dijon this March where I will be one of the judges. In October 2003 I went back to Macae, Brazil, the Atlantic Rainforest conservation area, where I spent two weeks looking at the **orchids** in their natural habitat. It was so nice to be back after seven years to see the people I met before and to see the plants doing so well. After that I spent a week in Bahia, a northern state of Brazil as a guest of Dr. Cassio van den Berg. This was a wonderful opportunity to see different species of **orchids** growing in completely different habitats.”

Horticulture Week (January 8th, 2004) stated “Seventeen years of hard work behind the scenes at a World Heritage Site has brought its reward in the shape of an M.B.E. for **Tom Bailey**, Head of Building and Maintenance at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.” *Vista* (Issue 76, February 24, 2004) also carried news of the award. Congratulations Tom from the Guild.

NEWS OF KEWITES AT HOME AND ABROAD IN 2004

Compiled by J. R. Woodhams

Susyn Andrews wrote to say that in April 2003, after 27 years, she left the Herbarium, RBG Kew to become a consultant horticultural taxonomist. In May 2004, her book *The Genus **Lavandula***, which she co-authored with Tim Upson (Superintendent of the University of Cambridge Botanic Garden), was published and has received excellent reviews. In November 2004, she was awarded the Shiu-Ying Award by the **Holly** Society of America. This is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the genus ***Ilex*** through scholarly study and research, and who have disseminated this knowledge through teaching or publication in the *Holly Society Journal* or other technical or scientific media.

Her current contracts include verifying plants at the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and their Harcourt Arboretum, as well as at the National Arboretum at Westonbirt.

Sandra Bell wrote to the compiler mid way through the year with information on a number of Kew people stating that both **Leigh Hunt** and **David Gardiner** had left their positions with *BBC Gardeners World Magazine*. David apparently now works as a freelance writer and Leigh has joined the RHS Advisory Team at Wisley where he is very happy. **Robert Brett** continues his work at the Cambridge Botanic Garden and is helping to found a new BG near Thessalonica in Greece. **John** and **Caroline Sitch**, Jack and Samuel are all fine, John managing a trip to Fairchild Botanic Garden last year.

Sandra wrote that **Dusha Hayes** made another visit to Brazil and has undertaken study to become an **orchid** judge. STOP-PRESS – Dusha is now a qualified **orchid** judge – Congratulations. Dusha contacted the compiler herself, noting that since her retirement from the Orchid Unit she has been very busy getting on with long-term projects in her own garden, including expanding her own **orchid** collection. Confirming her new status as a judge and her active role and a committee member of the Orchid Society of Great Britain, Dusha states, “I will be attending the World Orchid Congress in Dijon this March where I will be one of the judges. In October 2003 I went back to Macae, Brazil, the Atlantic Rainforest conservation area, where I spent two weeks looking at the **orchids** in their natural habitat. It was so nice to be back after seven years to see the people I met before and to see the plants doing so well. After that I spent a week in Bahia, a northern state of Brazil as a guest of Dr. Cassio van den Berg. This was a wonderful opportunity to see different species of **orchids** growing in completely different habitats.”

Horticulture Week (January 8th, 2004) stated “Seventeen years of hard work behind the scenes at a World Heritage Site has brought its reward in the shape of an M.B.E. for **Tom Bailey**, Head of Building and Maintenance at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew.” *Vista* (Issue 76, February 24, 2004) also carried news of the award. Congratulations Tom from the Guild.

Wolfgang Bopp (1995) featured as the subject of the *Interview* article by Philip Turvil in *Horticulture Week* (December 16th, 2004). In his new job as Curator of the Sir Harold Hillier Arboretum, Wolfgang outlines his ideas and inspirations for the future development of the gardens. Bopp states, "We have a fantastic resource of enormous size and diversity. We still want the feel of the arboretum, but by adding features it lets us talk to more people about a wider range of plants." Wolfgang is also involved in fundraising for projects and recently a craft fair in association with Help the Aged raised cash to make the garden more accessible to the elderly. Since leaving Kew Wolfgang has been a Consultant for the World Conservation Monitoring Centre, involved with the conservation and sustainable management of Trees Project. He then moved to be Assistant Curator, Research and Glass, Ness Botanic Gardens and from 1997 until 2004 was Curator of Gardens at the New Botanic Garden of Wales.

Vista (Issue 75, February 10th, 2004) recorded on its front page, congratulations to both **John Dransfield** and **Lucy Smith** on their respective recent awards. John was awarded the Linnean Medal for Botany in recognition of his exceptional contributions to **palm** biology and tropical botany as a whole, by the council of the Linnean Society. The text stated that John has worked in the Herbarium since 1975 and currently leads Kew's Palm Research Team. He was nominated for the award by a large team of colleagues at Kew and a host of supporters from around the world. Lucy has gained the Jill Smithies Award for 2004. The wording stated 'the award is given annually by the Council of the Linnean Society of London, on recommendation from an independent awards committee, to a botanical artist for published illustrations "in aid of plant identification" on merits like botanical accuracy and scientific content.' The award consists of a medal and a purse of £1,000. Lucy was in the limelight recently, featuring as artist on the BBC's *The Ship* which re-enacted the journey of Captain Cook along Australia's east coast in the Endeavour. Included also in this edition of *Vista* is a photograph of **Mary Grierson** inspecting some of her work on show in the Kew Herbarium. The text states, "Distinguished botanical artist Mary Grierson visited the library on Tuesday 3 February to officially open her exhibition of Botanical paintings. Mary was accompanied by **Professor Gren Lucas** (Guild President 1995/6) **Shirley Lucas** and **Marilyn Ward**." The exhibition ran through Spring 2004.

Three Kewites were honoured by the Royal Horticultural Society at their AGM in 2004. **Alan Titchmarsh M.B.E.** (1974) was a recipient of the Victoria Medal of Honour, **Ken Burras** (1954) was awarded an Associateship of Honour and **David Matthewman** (1974) received The Harlow



Alan Titchmarsh (image courtesy of Tim Sandall).



Ken Burras (photograph courtesy of Ken Burras).

Committee, which specialises in hardy trees and shrubs. Ken was formerly Superintendent of the Oxford Botanic Garden.”

David’s citation reads, “David Matthewman for his work as a grower and gold-medal-winning exhibitor of **sweet peas** and for his efforts to expand amateur interest in these plants.” In a letter the compiler received from Ken Burras later in the year Ken states that, “Among the advantages of the award, which I was unaware of until the correspondence arrived, is free life membership of the Society, together with two free tickets to the Chelsea Show on a day of ones choice. All very nice.” Ken also commented that he and Mary had just returned from a tour of the gardens of Norfolk taking in Hyde Hall on the way and including the Beth Chatto Gardens, Sandringham, East Ruston Old Vicarage and Alan Blooms Valley Gardens, together with Adrian Bloom’s delightful creation known as Foggy Bottom.

Carr Medal. *The Garden* magazine (Volume 129, part 8, August 2004) contained information about these and other award winners. Citations accompanied photographs of the above Kewites. For Alan the latter part of the citation reads, “Alan has dedicated his career to enthusing the gardening public in the UK and abroad. Thanks to his down-to-earth approach to gardening, he has de-mystified much of the theory behind the nation’s favourite pastime and has encouraged a younger generation to take up gardening.”

For Ken the wording states, “Ken Burras was awarded the Associateship of Honour in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Society and Horticulture in general for more than 50 years, particularly as a long-standing member of Floral ‘B’



David Matthewman (image courtesy of Michael Walter/Troika).

The Editor received correspondence from **Jim Eaton**. Jim says he keeps in touch mostly by Christmas mail with **F. J. Hebden** (now in New South Wales, Australia), one of his Kew contemporaries from 1938 to 1940 when they were called up for National Service. "We returned to Kew in 1946 for a few months while we found new jobs. Frank later joined the War Graves Commission and served in France and then in North Africa. He was awarded the O.B.E. when he retired from the Commission. He celebrated his 90th birthday this year, with a party of family and friends, by climbing to the top of the Sydney Harbour Bridge – 1400 steps and ladders."

John Ellison has moved from Kew to work at the Eden Project in Cornwall. *Vista* (Issue 86, August 17th, 2004) carried an account of John's leaving bash when he was given a handsome book filled with good wishes from his many friends across Kew and was also presented with a desktop weather station. John was one of Kew's staff who helped advise Eden at its beginning and no doubt he will now help to build further links between both organisations. **Laura Guiffrida** commented, "Over the past 10 years John has worked tirelessly to develop Kew's schools programme. We will miss his friendship, his extraordinary drive and distinctive sense of humour."

Vista (Issue 92, November 16th, 2004) reported **Clive Foster** calling in at Wakehurst on 26 October to say farewell to friends and colleagues. Clive worked at Kew for 15 years and then managed the Nursery team at Wakehurst for a further four years. The text stated, "For the last 15 months Clive has been on sabbatical spending time with his family and has decided to stay in Hampshire to perfect his culinary skills, animal husbandry and vegetable growing – watch out Hugh Fearnley Whittingstall! Good luck Clive and family."

Also recorded in this edition of *Vista* was the leaving 'do' for **Mary Thorp**. The caption to her photograph stated, "Friends and colleagues met on 29 October in the School of Horticulture to wish Mary all the very best for the future. Mary has decided to leave full time employment at Kew having joined over 13 years ago. **Nigel Taylor** pointed out at her party that Mary manages to do the work of many, such is her dedication and focus. Her passion for horticulture means that in her spare time she also works on her own allotment. Mary will still be around at Kew because she has decided to work two days a week as a volunteer."

Well known personality at Kew **Harvey Groffman** has again won recognition for his spectacular plantings at his home in London. *Vista* (Issue 87, September 1st, 2004). pictured Harvey's carefully designed patio display in gold, silver and bronze colours which celebrated both the RHS Bicentenary and also contained the number 57 which Harvey explained is the number of his house, his age and the fact he has lived there for 57 years. Harvey also featured on BBC2 *Gardeners World* on 3 September.

Vista (Issue 83, July 5th, 2004) recorded **Tony Hall** at his retirement party held in the School of Horticulture on 28 June 2004. Speeches were given by Kew's

Director, **Professor Sir Peter Crane**, **Nigel Taylor** and **Stewart Henchie**. Many colleagues had come to wish him well from different departments within the gardens. The occasion was a very happy one and Tony was presented with a cartoon, gold pass and other gifts. Although retiring, Tony will still be seen at Kew working on the Juno Project and looking after the **irises** for a few more years.

Allan Hart (1958) Past President (2002/3) reports that although he is now almost 'retired', he is currently completing a landscape project, which will give him his 'hat trick' of headquarter buildings – Porsche Cars Great Britain, Johnson and Johnson and Suffolk County Council. He is also working on a three-hectare field in Wiltshire, formally used for grazing, to create a wildflower meadow and wildlife conservation area. He hopes to encourage interest and help from the local community and school children. These schemes, together with garden design and construction for family and friends, keep him in touch with the landscape profession.

Allan forwarded to the compiler a letter that he had received from **Stephen Butler** (1977). The letter provides a window on the changing world of Zoo Horticulture. "As Curator of Horticulture, Dublin Zoo, I have a unique job in Ireland. The downside of that is that working alone you are often reinventing the wheel, especially when it comes to planting various exhibits. Several years ago a colleague in Edinburgh Zoo, Colin Wren, recognised this problem and seeing zoos have regular animal meetings, proposed a meeting of zoo plant people. This was a regular occurrence in America, with the Association of Zoological Horticulture. Our first Zoo Plant Group meeting, under the umbrella of the Federation of Zoological Gardens of Britain and Ireland, attracted about 30 people, and we have held a conference each year since, looking at various themes relevant to planting in zoos, which has given us a very wide choice, from conservation, education and interpretation, planting for primates etc. The steering group has included over the past few years three Kewites, (myself, **Ian Turner** – at Paignton Zoo, and **Mark Sparrow** at Chester Zoo) and two Edinburgh people, Colin Wren who was at Edinburgh Zoo and Eddie Mole at Bristol.

Several modern zoos now have Curators for their plant collections and this has been a great benefit, and has definitely improved the way many modern zoos look at using plants within a zoo setting. As a group, for the Federation, we have published a data base on animal browsing – not as simple as you might think, Colobus monkeys for instance happily eat *Sambucus niger*, while elephants, which, let's face it, are four legged timber chippers reducing 100mm branches easily, turn their long noses up at hybrid *Populus x canadensis* '**Goliath**'. Many zoos have to outsource 'browse' for lots of the animals, usually *Betula* or *Salix*, and the database provides information compiled from many zoos experience on which homegrown material can be safely used, and with which animals. There are also individual tastes within animal groups – a newly introduced member of a primate group may completely destroy planting left alone for years by the other members!

As a group we wrote a chapter for a revised keepers training course. Now that may not sound much, it only dealt after all with very basic zoo-orientated gardening.

It was a small step for us, but a quantum leap for animal keepers! Every animal person who trains up to become a keeper now has to consider planting an exhibit, improving an existing exhibit, or why an exhibit was planted in a particular way – with checking plant names and cultivation details, and most importantly, often contacting the zoo plant people for help. The look on one of our new trainee keepers when she asked me if I knew about the horticulture chapter in the Animal Management Course, and I answered yes – I wrote it – was great!

Also by contacting many zoos to see if they were interested in attending our conferences, we attracted European zoo plant people to UK and Ireland meetings. This resulted very quickly in a European Plant Group, under the umbrella of EAZA (the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria), which has also organised regular meetings and pooled efforts. Most importantly I feel, as a group, we have also raised awareness of plants in zoos with fellow professionals in other gardens. Membership of PlantNet immediately networks us to many gardens, and at a conference held at RHS Gardens Rosemoor a short talk by Mark Sparrow attracted much comment. As I write this in April 2004 I know there will soon be at least two zoo presentations at the World Botanic Garden Conference in Barcelona. The change over the last 10 years that this signifies is really phenomenal.

Anyone working with a zoo nearby may well benefit from making contact with them. There are so many plant/animal interactions that you may have the plants for, and they may have the animals for, that would make marvellous educational material. You will almost certainly at the least get some excellent free manure, and they would probably be interested in excess plant material from you. Animals are exceedingly good at stealing the limelight, especially if they have young, and particularly if the zoo has a good PR person. Why not try and hitch a ride occasionally?"

Harold Heywood (1968) was as good as his word and forwarded a few lines and more to the compiler following the Guild AGM. Harold headed his notes 'Reflections on a career in survival' and commenced his notes saying that he entered Kew on the Improver Gardener grade in 1965. Harold says, "Improver? What a quaint term to describe an early entrant to the gardens, but heck, I would have given my right arm to get there at the earliest opportunity. I went down to London from North Wales where I was working as an Apprentice in the Department of Botany at the University of Bangor. There, I was helping to maintain the living collections at the University and also helping to create a new garden near the Menai Bridge on land owned by the University." Harold states that his recollection of his interview for a place at Kew was rather hazy but he remembers being asked what library he had built up. His list included among others: *Trees and Shrubs Hardy in the British Isles* by W. J. Bean, *All About Gardening* by G. H. Preston, *Education of a Gardener* by Russell Page and *Grasses* by **C. E. Hubbard**. The latter apparently scored a hit and a ripple of laughter for the author was a member of the interview panel!

Harold mentions that by the time his Diploma Student Course (No. 2) started in September 1965 he had notched up a number of months in the gardens where he was assigned to the Herbaceous and Rock Garden Section under the late **George**

Preston and watched over by, at that time **Ian Beyer** and **Alan Cook**. He says, "In my Improver period I spent every Sunday when not on duty 'botanising' in the gardens and joining the plant identification tests set by **Leo Pemberton**, and as I recall, doing quite well! Walking round the gardens was such a delight and indeed a privilege; my feet seemed to float, such was the joy of it all. For many during those heady 1960's years, it was all happening in Carnaby Street and the Kings Road in London and the Cavern in Liverpool, but for me it was happening at Kew!" Harold recalls helping rebuild the Rock Garden under the supervision of Ian Beyer, removing old limestone and replacing with Sussex Sandstone.

Harold makes mention of many Gardens staff including working with **Ron Rule** in the Palm House (sweating profusely refurbishing the **Banana** bed), the late **George Brown**, overseeing the Arboretum, **Brian Halliwell** and **John Simmons**, then Assistant Curator over the Temperate Section and the late **Stan Rawlings**. Harold recalls, "Of course I remember Stan Rawlings especially on the occasion he came to see us on duty over Christmas in the Palm House. Snow was on the ground and he came to wish us a happy New Year! I was leaving that evening to spend the New Year with my family in Manchester."

Other staff mentioned include **Hans Fliegner**, **Bert Bruty**, **John Woodhams** and the late **Dick Shaw** who was then Curator at Kew. Mention is made of **Dr. Keith Jones** and the late **Dr. Peter Thompson** in the Jodrell Laboratory who helped supervise Harold's Thesis (project) '*The Use of Growth Retardants on Decorative Temperate Plant Species*'. Other students in my year included; **Yong Fann Chin**, **Dennis (Dusty) Miller**, **Steve Scarr**, **Marion Jones**, (later Marion Graham), **Jenny Nau** (now Scarr), **Elizabeth Stevens** (now Tite), **Robert Hebb**, **Colin Hindmarch**, (now Dr. C. Hindmarch, President of the Guild 2004/5), **Dick Cowley**, **Stuart Dyer**, **Graham Pattison**, **John Roberts**, **Graham Burgess** and **Colin Jones** who Harold was delighted to see at the 2004 AGM and recalls as "always unruffled and always jovial". Other names recalled from the previous year feature **John Beswick**, **Alan Rich**, **Brian Nash** and the late **Geoff Graham** and from a year earlier still **Roger Bowen** and **Jim Mitchell**. **John Lawrence** (1969) apparently had a houseboat moored on the Thames, that became a meeting place for a number of students. Before marrying in 1967 Harold boarded with **Ben Pemberthy** (1967) in Feltham and recalls that Ben and Geoff Graham were star runners in the Kew/Wisley races of the period.

In a follow-up letter Harold recalls that a fellow work colleague from Kew **Tim Sutcliffe** who hailed from Nelson/Colne in Lancashire also resided with them at Feltham. Harold says Tim was a great Fan of American Blues singers and Jug Bands and as a group they spent a number of (boozy) Saturday evenings on Eel Pie Island at Twickenham. Mention is made of the Kew Music Circle which **Dr.** and **Mrs. Metcalf** hosted at their home in Pensford Avenue at Kew. Lastly in this part of the letter Harold recalls his and other student and staff visits to **Lena** and **Andy's** Penguin café on Kew Green. (A note from the compiler here to say that Lena and Andy are still enjoying their retirement in Italy. In a note received, at Christmas Lena wishes to be remembered to all her Kew friends!)

Harold's first job after completing the Kew course was TA in the Parks Section of the Leisure Services Department of Teeside Borough Council. He recalls one of his first jobs was to refurbish the conservatory in the Queens Park in Middlesborough, which he set about with gusto, along with a new colleague recently qualified from Edinburgh BG. To progress in the parks field Harold muses that it was necessary to become involved in other aspects of parks work, such as Burial and Cremation and management of Sport and Leisure Centres and it was whilst at Teeside that involvement with the Institute of Park and Recreation Administration, (the honourable organisation that was the precursor to ILAM) commenced. Harold recalls the former was linked to such illustrious figures as **Frank Constable** (1949) of Derby, **Don McGuffog** (1951) of Tunbridge Wells, **Roy Bee** (1953) of Manchester, **Geoff Schofield** of Bolton, **Tom Seager** (1955) of Oldham, **Loui Bell** of Trafford, the late **David Welch** of Aberdeen and the late **Ted Storey** to name a few.

Later, after moving south, Harold performed the duties of North West Branch Secretary for six years. After some three and a half years at Teeside, Harold secured the post in 1972 of Deputy Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries at Warrington. Harold says, "Here **George Crowder** was my boss. George was a Kewite (1955) and father of **Colin** who completed the Diploma course in 1978. Since he left Kew, Colin has been Head Gardener at Levens Hall in Cumbria and I believe just missed being a Blue Peter presenter.

Acquisition of further qualifications, including the Institutes Final Diploma and Diploma in Management, seemed necessary for steady progress in the profession and it was at Warrington that I helped the council embrace the changes brought about by the 1974 reorganisation of Local Government. In Warrington we were working alongside the New Town Development Corporation and eventually we took over the maintenance of hundreds of acres of New Town landscaped land. Finding the financial resources to meet this challenge taxed not only staff minds but those of the Politicians too! Life at Warrington was instructive but in 1977 I succeeded to the post of Deputy Director of Parks and Recreation at Bolton following the departure of **Ken Robinson** to Liverpool as Parks Manager. Ken was on the last of the old two-year courses at Kew and left in 1965."

Harold experienced several re-organisations of the council at Bolton and held several posts while there, taking early retirement in 1998. Geoff Schofield was then Director and he had followed **Tom E. Clark** an old Kewite (1923) who was a founding member of the IPRA and a Past President. Harold mentions life at Bolton was very challenging for it was a large department with a huge investment in Countryside Parks development, in dual use of school sports facilities and in refurbishment of town centre parks that lasted for many years.

After retirement there was a short spell as a lecturer at Salford University and Bolton Institute, (now University of Bolton), teaching Leisure and General Management whilst at the same time taking a teacher training course. However Harold eventually secured a senior management post with Age Concern where he

says the work is challenging and "Guess what – there is no ageism!" Harold concludes, "Professionally, life since Kew has been exciting, demanding, challenging and very rewarding. To have been a public servant in the field of Horticulture/Leisure for some 30 years (plus the three and a half at Kew) has been a privilege and I believe I owe it all to Kew. For it was at Kew that my horizons were expanded, my ambition nurtured, opportunities laid bare and where confidence and ability to deal with life generally was gained. Thank you Kew!"

Neil Huck (1981) President, British Association of Landscape Industries (2004) was the subject for the Interview on page 12 of *Horticulture Week* (June 17th, 2004). The interview by Matthew Appleby explored Neil's hopes and aims for BALI especially during his tenure as President. Neil, who is also a training officer for BALI, is an ardent advocate of the Register of Landscape Operatives card. This, he believes, will save time and money stating "ROLO is a card for members so their customers can be assured that the person working for them in the garden knows what they are doing." He hopes that having this card gain broad recognition will eventually negate the need to obtain and purchase numerous other cards which can cost upwards of £400-500. The article displayed an insert of Neil's CV, showing that after leaving Kew he was firstly Training Manager, Walsall Council Parks and Recreation Department, followed by three years in charge of regional local government training centre in Durham. In 1989 to 1995 Neil took the post of Grounds Manager Center Parcs, Suffolk. He then became the owner of a small business subcontracting to Ground Control and in 2001 became Area Contracts Manager, Ground Control.

Under the heading 'Illegal timber finds a lawful home,' *Horticulture Week* (March 18th, 2004) reported that customs officers seized a consignment of timber 10 or so years ago and that Kew, or rather its satellite garden at Wakehurst Place, has now benefited. The timber *Pericopsis elata* arrived in Liverpool from Zaire via Canada in 1994 without correct export documents. The text stated that Kew's Head of Conventions and Policy, **Noel McGough**, works alongside Customs and Excise as part of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The article quoted Head of Wakehurst, **Andy Jackson**, who said, "Working with C&E we carry out inspections of plant consignments to ensure conformity with the convention and after seizure, we negotiate the final use of the plant material. Exploitation of this tree species has been unsustainable according to the Global Trees Campaign, which alerts governments to problems." A picture accompanying the text showed Noel with C&E officer Guy Clarke.

David Jewell (1983), Superintendent of the Floral Ornamental Department at the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley, featured with **Roy Lancaster** in a four page article in *The Garden* (Journal of the RHS, Volume 129, part 7 July 2004, pp562-565). The article took the form of an interview by Nigel Colborn in which both Roy and David discuss what it takes to be a plantsman. The article's headline statement from David reads, "Plantsmanship and good gardening overlap and interconnect. The key ingredient of a plantsman is passion."

Vista (Issue 85, August 3rd, 2004), recorded the retirement of **Bob Johns**, Head of **Fern** Taxonomy in the Herbarium. Bob is a Botanist, Ecologist and Conservationist with more than 20 years of Research and Teaching experience in Papua New Guinea. Bob joined Kew in 1990 and taught on the Kew Diploma course and has published nearly 100 books, checklists and scientific papers in his 14 years at Kew. The article indicated over 240 friends and colleagues were there to wish Bob well. **Simon Owens** presented him with a number of gifts including a painting, cheque and a cake made by **Jill Marsden** expertly fashioned on a likeness of a trunk section of a **tree fern** which Bob collected in West Papua. However Bob indicated that he will still be seen at Kew in the Herbarium as there is still much for him to complete.

Following meeting the compiler at the AGM in September **Colin Jones** (1968) wrote a few notes for the *Journal* as follows. "After leaving Kew I went to the Grotto (Parks Institute) and then on to Torbay Parks Department as a Technical Assistant for two years, then to Chelmsford Council as an Assistant Manager for six years and finally on to Welwyn and Hatfield Council as Parks Superintendent and Recreation Manager. In 1995, after 18 years service, I took early retirement though after a two-year break I was invited back to WHC and have continued working for them for the last seven years, on a part time basis specialising in Children's Play. I have also become involved in invigilating on examinations for Oaklands College and have assisted the college for the last five years. I am a Fellow of the Institute of Leisure and Amenities Management and also a Fellow of the Association of Landscape Management."

As well as including this photograph, taken in Pembroke, West Wales, Colin added the following note with the heading 'A thank you to **George Preston** A.H.R.H.S., F.L.S., 1911-2003.' Colin writes, "As a student at Kew my first six month placement was with George Preston in the Alpine/Herbaceous section. One October morning in 1965 George Preston asked a group of students to go and collect some ready-made trough gardens that had been donated to the gardens. I was one of the students chosen to go with **Ian Beyer** in the garden's vehicle along with fellow students **Stuart Dyall**, **David Coleman** and a few others. The round trip took rather longer than expected and we all arrived back an hour late for our lunch break. We all went off to the Post Office Savings Bank canteen in Ruskin Avenue for a late lunch and it was there in the canteen that I met a young



Left to right: Joshua (grandson in backpack), Keith (eldest son), Colin with wife Penny and Jo (Keith's wife).

lady called Penny who was a Clerical Officer with the Post Office Savings Bank. Penny always had her lunch an hour later than I normally, so we would never have met under normal circumstances. Being late on this occasion changed my life for the better as Penny and I were married three months later and we now have a wonderful family of four children, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. So thank you George for enabling me to meet my wife Penny.”

‘Kew Attraction’ was the caption accompanying a photograph and short text in *Horticulture Week* (April 1st, 2004) relating to the new £2 million Visitor Centre opened at Wakehurst Place. The picture showed chairman of Kew’s Trustee’s **Lord Selbourne**, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) Chief Scientific Adviser **Professor Howard Dalton** and Head of Wakehurst Place **Andy Jackson** in the visitor centre displaying a large sack of Bar-B-Kew charcoal. The Wakehurst estate produces three tons of sustainable-sourced charcoal each year.

The Journal of the Institute of Horticulture, (Volume 14 No 1, Winter edition) in the listing of IOH Awards records that **Dr. Anthony Lord** was a recipient of an IOH Award. The citation commences, “Tony Lord’s award recognises his contribution to horticulture as consultant, examiner, author and photographer and in particular for his work as Editor of *The Plant Finder* and as a Gardens Adviser for the National Trust of England and Wales.” The text mentions that Tony studied for his B.Sc. and Ph.D. in organic chemistry at Imperial College, London, before switching to horticulture. He took the Diploma Course at Kew completing this in 1978. **Tom Wood** (1960) was also a recipient of an IOH Award – see elsewhere. Under People and Places heading, **Dr. Colin Hindmarch** receives mention, together with photograph of Colin wearing the Kew Guild Presidents regalia. The last part of the text mentions that Colin represents the IOH on the Institute of Biology Environmental Committee and has recently been appointed to the BioSciences Federation Environmental Sustainability Committee, having been nominated by the IOH. **Alan Titchmarsh** receives mention, having won the prestigious Garden Writers Guild Lifetime Achievement Award for 2004. The text mentions that at the tender age of 55 Alan is the youngest ever recipient of the Guild’s highest honour.

Brian Mathew has been made a M.B.E. in the New Year Honours. The award was for his services to Horticulture and Botanical Science. Congratulations Brian from the Guild.

This year’s recipients of the Kew Medal were reported in *Vista* (Issue 87, September 1st, 2004). The medals are presented each year at the Students prize-giving which this year was on Friday 10 September. Three medals were awarded this year to: **Peter Lufflum**, **Laura Giuffrida** and **Dr. Stephen Graham**. Peter as the ‘Bird Man’ at Kew has cared for the birds and waterfowl since joining in 1991. The medal was awarded for his dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge which he uses to inspire today’s visitors and future generations. Laura as Exhibition and Live Interpretation Manager has been a dedicated and committed team member for 32 years being a key player in a diverse range of setting up exhibition projects and overseeing the Volunteer Guides programme, and currently co-ordinating the 2005 Chihuly glass

exhibition. Stephen as Jodrell Laboratory Manager has given loyal service for over 12 years and is currently providing invaluable support and back-up liaison on planning processes involved in the imminent Jodrell Extension Project plus always ensuring that the existing Laboratory functions smoothly and safely and adheres to his high standards of professionalism.

Jim Mitchell (1966) e-mailed at the 11th hour, a set of notes for inclusion in the *Journal*. Jim and Valerie visited the UK in October, a visit he indicates he is able to make every few years, though admits to leaving his tour planning late, missing a number of those he would have liked to see. However this year Jim writes, "I was a little bit more organised and did e-mail the Director and, although out of town, he kindly arranged for **Annette Wilson** to meet with Valerie and I to show us around the Herbarium, an experience not enjoyed since 1964. There have certainly been many changes, most visible in the number of computers on desks, but it was good to see there was still a place for the marble bust of Charles Darwin. I said to Val – it probably hadn't moved very much over the last 32 years."

The Director had also kindly arranged for **Tim Pearce** and **Michael van Slageran** to give Jim and Val a briefing on the Millennium Seed Bank as 'Greening Australia' is playing a small part collecting seed, mainly in Queensland, for the Bank. Jim states, "The changes at Kew continue and improvements that began during **John Simmons** (1995) days, are absolutely fantastic, though I couldn't come to grips with the loss of the display beds along the Broad Walk. I had a soft spot for these, having spent many hours digging them over with **Ken Robinson** (1965) and chatting up the girls. I spoke to Ken whilst in the North, where he is now in retirement, but still his spirited self."

Jim says he enjoys reading the *Journal* after a gap of a few years, though missed the membership list and hopes it will return. He states he particularly enjoyed reading **John Woodhams** 'News of Kewites' section and the coverage of **Peter Bridgeman's** Kew Guild /Mutual Improvement Society lecture. Jim mentions speaking to **Clive** and **Julie Popham** (1964) a few weeks ago who, after developing a bulb farm in the delightful Victorian Alps region, are now planning for their retirement.

He also mentions that whilst in the UK he met with **John Jones** (1966) and his wife Dianna (who was a nurse with Val at Richmond Hospital – as well as their bridesmaid). John is apparently still running his successful landscape contracting business in Yorkshire. He also spoke to **Alan Barber** (1965) former Director Parks and Leisure, Bristol Council, who is still very active as a Commissioner with the Millennium Fund and as a consultant. He tried to make contact with **Tony Overland** (1964) but found he was out of the country in Spain. Tony is now retired from his post as Director of Infrastructure with Merseyside Council. Jim states, "I note from one statement in the *Journal* that there had been a new direction of careers away from local government for Kewites and when I remember the successful careers of those mentioned above I wonder why, as our local parks here need them."

Jim also says he has now retired from his position as Manager of Parks and Reserves with Darwin City Council, and is presently involved with voluntary community work with 'Greening Australia' Northern Territory which puts him on the National Board hence his interest with the Seed Bank. The Northern Territory is a very unique area and being only a short drive away from the Wetlands at Kakadu is well worth a visit and he says he would like to catch up with any Kewites who pass his way.

Jim concludes that he is not sure exactly when he will next be in the UK, but maybe in 2006 which would be appropriate, it being the 40th anniversary of the graduation of the 1st Kew Diploma Course (three year).

John Norris formerly of the Tropical Section Nursery wrote saying that he and his wife Elizabeth are enjoying retirement. They have a caravan on the Norfolk coast that they use as often as they can. They are also both looking forward to a trip to Spain in 2005.

Patrick Nutt (1953) as usual sent several mailings to the compiler throughout the year and obviously keeps in touch with other Kewites. **John Simmons** (1958-1995), Kew's immediate past Curator, passed along an article sent by Patrick to John, relating to an article that appeared in the November/December 2003 issue of the American magazine *Pond Keeper*. The centre-fold article concerned primarily a résumé of Patrick's work with aquatic plants at Longwood Gardens. A photograph of Patrick, almost waist deep in water in one of Longwood's outside pools, accompanied the article. In March a fulsome envelope arrived with the compiler containing much photocopied information. Along with a copy of a letter of March 1970 to **Ken Burras** (1954), then Head of the University Garden at Oxford, relating to the exchange of **waterlilies**, were several invitations to Patrick to present talks and requests to join judging panels at various plant shows. Also included was a request from Longwood for Patrick to join a visiting group to the gardens and be the Tour Guide. The group's main dignity was HRH Prince Michael of Kent who was visiting Longwood on January 31.

It would seem Patrick's other home has become Brazil for he again participated on an expedition there in early January 2004. Patrick writes, "I really enjoyed this trip to Brazil again. This time having just students – who could be prompted to make most of the time allotted – instead of older naturalists, was very refreshing." Various paper cuttings relating to harsh winter conditions in Pennsylvania and the proposed Royal party of visitors to the USA were included.

Early May saw another mailing informing that Patrick had been running again to keep fit, this time participating in the Penn Relays Distance Classic 20K race! A result sheet attached proclaimed Patrick first in the male 70-99 age group. Lastly there is information on a presentation given at Longwood by the students from the Brazil sojourn. He mentions they, "did a great job of presenting short illustrated talks on the visit – plus some humour." Late September saw a well-packed envelope arrive within which, and taking pride of place, a picture of the student visit to Brazil.



Patrick Nutt (second to last rider on the brown horse and wearing a white hat) with his party of students and guide botanising somewhere in the Pantanal, the world's largest swamp, in Brazil).

Patrick made a short visit to the UK in July representing Longwood Gardens on a Chester County Pennsylvania-Cheshire Tourism UK familiarisation visit. This trip was only of a few days duration though much was achieved. Based in Chester he enthuses over trips made to Arley Halland gardens and the RHS Tatton Park flower show.

Derek Parker (1978) presently Director of Horticulture with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, confirmed in a note sent to the compiler in December that he will take up a new post as Deputy Director Outer Area with that organisation in April 2005. Derek mentions that he will have responsibility for horticulture, structure and admin in many countries that he already knows and is very much looking forward to the move.

A letter received from **Graham Pattison** (1981) indicated that he is now settled in his new job as Head Gardener at the Stoke Poges Memorial Garden, a nine hectare 1930's Grade II listed garden said to be the best example in the country. His job entails mainly administrative work in liaising with contractors, historical research etc. Graham states, "A million pound refurbishment is now almost completed."

Vista (Issue 82, June 15th, 2004) devoted much of the front page to the visit to RBG Kew of The Queen and Prince Philip. The text states, "On Friday 14 June, HRH Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh visited Kew to the delight of many staff who welcomed them on the terrace of the **Rose** Garden. The Royal party visited the **Palm** House, **Waterlily** House and Nash Conservatory, where Lord

Selborne invited the Queen to unveil a plaque. The Royal visit re-introduced Her Majesty to the Kew landscape and helped to acknowledge staff's extraordinary efforts in achieving World Heritage Site Status."

Tom Risely (1958), Guild Honorary Secretary of the Guild, wrote to the compiler with information regarding **Brian Lowe** (1961). **Allan Hart** (1958), following receipt of a letter from Brian, had spoken with Tom about a series of tragedies and misfortunes suffered by Brian and the matter was then raised in committee. Considering Brian's active participation in the initial establishment of the Guild Award Scheme and his links with the Guild over many years, The President and Committee, on behalf of the Guild, awarded Brian Lowe Honorary Life Membership of the Guild in recognition of long years of service and support. The compiler made contact with Brian who mailed back a few notes that could be included here. Brian says, "Due to nursing a very sick wife until she died, as well as running the nursery, the strain brought on a major stroke leaving me partially paralysed and in need of continuous care." Brian's problems were compounded by being dropped from a bath hoist, fracturing his hip which needed extensive reconstructive surgery and repair while still leaving all the previous disabilities and him not able to return to work.

Brian also included some biographical notes in his letter, that seem appropriate to include here. After a school visit to RHS Wisley and hearing about horticulture as a career, Brian decided to aim for training at Kew. On leaving school he gained an apprenticeship with the Parks Department of Ilford Borough Council (now LB Redbridge). There followed two years National Service in the RAF and on returning to Ilford Parks Brian actively sought entrance to the Kew Students Course. After obtaining the recommended extra practical experience, a place was secured and recollections of working in the T Range, Rock Garden and Arboretum and passing the course exams with Credit are recalled.

Next came a place at 'The Grotto' (Parks Institute College) after which he joined the then London County Council as a Landscape Assistant and followed this with a spell at the Ministry of Transport in the Horticultural Advisors Department. Then came a move to Merrist Wood Agricultural College to start up the (now HNC), Landscape Technicians Course eventually becoming Director of Landscape Department. From here Brian returned to the landscape contracting industry (initial experience was gained whilst waiting to join the 'Grotto' course), becoming Head of the Landscape Section of civil engineers George Wimpey plc.

The next move was as a private practice consultant including acting as part time resident site agent for landscape compliance, at the on-shore works of the Channel Tunnel Project. With the opening of the Tunnel, Brian purchased a nursery business which, in his words, "Brought me full circle back to basic horticultural practice." Brian would love to hear from old friends and acquaintances. His address, which originally was the family holiday home, is: 81, Big Vennel, Cromarty, Rosshire, IV11 8XE. Telephone: 01381 600 501.

John Simmons (1995) mailed a letter to the compiler together with a copy of the Castle Howard, Arboretum Trust's Autumn Newsletter. Included within the newsletter, a separate sheet with the heading 'Our Ambition: A Visitor and Education Centre for 2005' sets out progress to date, followed by a listing of minor and more substantial items and requirements for the Centre still to find funding. However, John in his letter updates progress as follows, "To let you know we have been awarded a major grant by DEFRA which means we have just enough by way of funds to go ahead with the new education and visitor building this year." John is obviously delighted with such marvellous news. The Newsletter has an artists impression of the centre building on its front page, included within a lead article from the Arboretum Trust's Chairman, **Sir Ron Cooke**. Much news of the Arboretum's volunteer helpers, past year's progress, events and information regarding the established and new plantings is set down within the four page newsletter. John adds particular plant notes in the section headed Curator's Diary.

Brian Stannard's retirement party marking 34 years service at Kew was recorded in *Vista* (Issue 91, November 2nd, 2004). He was joined by many friends and colleagues for a special lunchtime farewell party held in the **Pat Brennan** Suite of the Herbarium. There were speeches by **Daniela Zappi**, **Ray Harley** (former Head of the South American section in the Herbarium) and **Stewart Henchie**. Warm greetings were read out from a fax sent by Brazilian friends and colleagues. Brian first arrived at Kew in 1970 as a student on the Kew Diploma Course which he completed in 1973. After a short while working in the Tropical Department he transferred to the Herbarium in 1974. Brian will be returning to Kew to help with the planning of the new extension to the Herbarium and Library building.

Following contact with the compiler **Peter Thurman** (1981) forwarded the following notes regarding a small reunion of courses 16, 17 and 18 held at Kew in May 2004. Peter writes, "Since finishing the Kew Diploma in 1981, **Tony Kirkham** and myself from Diploma Course 16 have met at least once every year (often over a pint in the Coach and Horses on Kew Green) to discuss matters relating to the Arboriculture Section of the Diploma. Tony teaches the bulk of the course and I am the external examiner. Very often, nearing the end of the first pint, the conversation would come round to reminiscing about student days and the good times that we had over the three years. For the last four years the discussions concluded with, "Lets organise a reunion." This finally happened in May 2004.

Sadly, two members of Course 16 have now died – **John Jellyman** and **Takemi Ida**. A number of others have lost touch with Kew and despite much effort by Tony and myself (and **Ian Leese**) we have failed to find contact details for: **Chris Close** (New Zealand), **David Wallace** (last heard of in the West Indies), **Jenny Yip** (Singapore), **Sue Thomas** (last heard of in Australia) and **Les Thornton** (somewhere in the North of England). Can anyone help with contact details for these people?

As all Kew students know there is quite a lot of camaraderie between the course years. Peter mentioned the reunion to **Jim Buckland** and **Brian MacDonald** of



Reunion from Courses 16, 17 and 18 taken in front of the Jodrell Laboratory. *Seated from left to right:* Mrs. T. Milan, Tony Kirkham, Peter Thurman, Ian Leese, Phil Lusby, Leo Pemberton, Professor Sir Peter Crane, Marie Delmas (nee Trolliet), Colin Porter, David Jewell. *Standing from left to right:* Tony Milan, Anne Wood (nee Granham), Dick Borg, Sarah Wain, Jim Buckland, Tony Hall, Britta von Schoenaich, Felix Naef, Edward Locke, John Palmer, John Sallis and Jenny Michael.

Course 17 and they did sterling work in getting many of their year present on the day. The weather was grand, **Professor Sir Peter Crane** attended and everyone was delighted to see **Leo Pemberton** and **Tony Hall** again.

Darren Webster (1996) was the subject in the ‘Me and My Job’ feature in *Horticulture Week* (June 17th, 2004). Darren is head gardener at Thenford House, the home of Lord Hesseltine in Northants. Judging from the question and answer format of the column Darren seems to enjoy the challenge of the projects undertaken and though the work for him has been very much hands-on, the plan is for him to devote more time to looking at the longer-term development of the garden. Asked what is the best aspect of the job Darren said, “It may sound corny but it is working for somebody – Lord Hesseltine – who is so passionate about what is really their own personal garden, plus having the opportunity to work on projects this size.”

John (Log) Whitehead (1972) was in contact with the compiler on several occasions through the year and in a letter received in November John writes as follows: “During March 2004, Bren (Brenda March) and I had an adventurous botanical journey from Mexico to Panama and Hispaniola. We saw the wonderful sight of millions of Monarch butterflies in their winter roosts in the **silver fir** forests, northwest of Mexico City and visited the giant **Taxodium** tree at Tule, near Oaxaca. We spotted plenty of **pine** trees in Belize through to Honduras and big **Kapok** trees near the Mayan ruins at Tikal. In Nicaragua, we went to one of the last mountains where pine trees occur at the limit of their southern distribution. It was interesting to see **Liquidambar** in El Salvador and tropical **oaks** in Costa Rica. Eventually we found the **Zombia palm** in the Dominican Republic and spent one dangerous day in

the **pine**-forested mountains of southeast Haiti, avoiding political problems in the capital and one week later, the disastrous floods. During our 40 days adventure we slept in 40 different places and the driving was horrendous! It is a compounded battle of more busses and mega truck traffic, more youngsters with mopeds and more people driving unaffordable old beaten-up uninsured cars. Next time, we are looking forward to a more relaxed form of travel by ship to Antarctica.

John concluded his letter with the following paragraph regarding a work project in Wales. "We live in Pontllyfni, North Wales and Glynllifon Country Park is nearby, where I have been working with the Park Manager, Gwynedd Roberts. We have completed tourism projects for an educational tree trail leaflet and environmental planting of insect attracting trees and shrubs along the traditional flight-paths of the local bat population. Glynllifon Mansion has the largest roost of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus hipposiderhos*, in Europe and funds have been available for Bats from the Countryside Council for Wales. The Tree Trail is special in having trilingual blue labels in English, Latin and Welsh and includes an interesting range of recently planted young trees as well as existing mature specimens. It was a challenge to fit 50 trees, with the maximum information on the minimum area of one folded leaflet and doubling to a total of 100 trees, to include the translation in Welsh. Therefore, the small print is not easy to read for the age of the Whiteheads!! The local publicity agency 'Utgorn' (Bugle), dealt with promoting the Tree Trail leaflet which featured in the Welsh newspapers, Arboricultural Association newsletter and *Horticulture Week*."



John Whitehead in Glynllifon Country Park.
(Photograph courtesy of the Arboricultural Association)

The local publicity agency 'Utgorn' (Bugle), dealt with promoting the Tree Trail leaflet which featured in the Welsh newspapers, Arboricultural Association newsletter and *Horticulture Week*."

Tom Wood (1960) Guild President 1996/7 received an IOH award presented at its AGM. *The Grower* (October 14th, 2004) reported thus, "Founder and former president of the UK chapter of the International Plant Propagators Society Tom Wood has been presented with an Institute of Horticulture award. Mr. Wood received the accolade for his contribution to the horticultural industry over 50 years in the hardy nursery stock sector and furthering its R&D and training young people." The article mentioned that Tom had studied at Kew and worked as a trainer in Africa before returning to the UK as joint owner of Oakover Nurseries.

OBITUARIES

T.H. FARRAR

1928-2004

Tom was born on the last day of 1928 in Gillingham, Kent. His father was a naval officer and he was away a lot, so Tom, being the eldest of seven children, shared in the burden of bringing up the family. When war broke out Tom did his share of fire-watching and then the family moved from Chatham, a regular target for bombs, to a rural small holding, where the family grew fruit and vegetables and nurtured goats and chickens. Tom progressed through agricultural colleges and won first prizes for milking and sheep shearing.

He then moved to Bexley Parks Department where he came under the influence of Kewites and on the second of April 1951 he entered Kew. He left in 1953 with his certificate and took up a post as Horticultural Teacher and County Horticultural Advisor at Bury St. Edmunds. A Kew friend, Lou Carned, accompanied him.

He married Barbara in Sheffield in 1955 and those who knew them both tell us she found him a kind and considerate man and a man who could cook, iron, the lot. His life moved increasingly towards lecturing and in 1966 he moved to Ducklington where he accepted a joint post as Lecturer in Horticulture, based at Waterperry and also Advisory Officer for Horticulture to the Oxford Education Department.

He was always at his happiest when wearing Wellingtons and out there amongst nature whether it be trees or ponds. Thousands of trees spread throughout the county of Oxfordshire would not be there if it had not been for his vision. In retirement he was active in PROBUS (Professional Businessman's Association) and he was Secretary of the local group.

On their 40th wedding anniversary Tom and Barbara travelled to Iona, something that Barbara had wanted to do for ages. Despite his self-giving lifestyle he had become reluctant to embrace the Christian faith, but that changed and he was confirmed on Easter Eve at a special confirmation service at Dorchester Cathedral. In spite of failing health he returned to Iona as a volunteer for three months. The last few years have been difficult as Tom and Barbara struggled with his debilitating illness and particularly Motor Neurone Disease.

Around 300 people attended his funeral in Ducklington and much of the content of this obituary was taken from the address given by the Farrar's friend the vicar. We thank Ken and Mary Lothian for their assistance in producing this obituary.

ALBERT J. FORDHAM

1911-2000

Albert entered Kew on the 7th July 1936 and, strangely, went under the name Alfred. He stayed at Kew for a year advancing his propagation skills. Naturally, his Mutual Improvement Society Lecture on March 15th 1937 was on the Arnold

OBITUARIES

T.H. FARRAR

1928-2004

Tom was born on the last day of 1928 in Gillingham, Kent. His father was a naval officer and he was away a lot, so Tom, being the eldest of seven children, shared in the burden of bringing up the family. When war broke out Tom did his share of fire-watching and then the family moved from Chatham, a regular target for bombs, to a rural small holding, where the family grew fruit and vegetables and nurtured goats and chickens. Tom progressed through agricultural colleges and won first prizes for milking and sheep shearing.

He then moved to Bexley Parks Department where he came under the influence of Kewites and on the second of April 1951 he entered Kew. He left in 1953 with his certificate and took up a post as Horticultural Teacher and County Horticultural Advisor at Bury St. Edmunds. A Kew friend, Lou Carned, accompanied him.

He married Barbara in Sheffield in 1955 and those who knew them both tell us she found him a kind and considerate man and a man who could cook, iron, the lot. His life moved increasingly towards lecturing and in 1966 he moved to Ducklington where he accepted a joint post as Lecturer in Horticulture, based at Waterperry and also Advisory Officer for Horticulture to the Oxford Education Department.

He was always at his happiest when wearing Wellingtons and out there amongst nature whether it be trees or ponds. Thousands of trees spread throughout the county of Oxfordshire would not be there if it had not been for his vision. In retirement he was active in PROBUS (Professional Businessman's Association) and he was Secretary of the local group.

On their 40th wedding anniversary Tom and Barbara travelled to Iona, something that Barbara had wanted to do for ages. Despite his self-giving lifestyle he had become reluctant to embrace the Christian faith, but that changed and he was confirmed on Easter Eve at a special confirmation service at Dorchester Cathedral. In spite of failing health he returned to Iona as a volunteer for three months. The last few years have been difficult as Tom and Barbara struggled with his debilitating illness and particularly Motor Neurone Disease.

Around 300 people attended his funeral in Ducklington and much of the content of this obituary was taken from the address given by the Farrar's friend the vicar. We thank Ken and Mary Lothian for their assistance in producing this obituary.

ALBERT J. FORDHAM

1911-2000

Albert entered Kew on the 7th July 1936 and, strangely, went under the name Alfred. He stayed at Kew for a year advancing his propagation skills. Naturally, his Mutual Improvement Society Lecture on March 15th 1937 was on the Arnold

Arboretum. He had joined the Arnold Arboretum as a student intern under the then propagator William H. Judd. The war interrupted his studies as it did to so many and he spent three years in the American Army. He returned to the arboretum as Assistant Superintendent of Grounds.

From 1958 to 1976 Al was the sole propagator at Harvard University and it was during that period that the propagation department of the arboretum was re-organised and the Dana Greenhouses were designed and built. Al's work was distinguished by a willingness to test new methods and by his fastidious recording of experimental results.

He published over a hundred research papers between 1958 and 1975. He studied things like the barriers that control the germination of woody plant seeds, the role of physiological juvenility in plant propagation and methods of seed-dispersal. In 1963 he started collecting seeds from witches brooms and this led to the introduction of several new cultivars. Al was a classic case of a specialist who stayed in his specialism and by virtue of a lifetime experience achieved so much.

THOMAS ROBERT NOEL LOTHIAN, O.B.E.

1915-2004

Known to most of us as Noel, this man was one who kept in close contact with the Guild and fellow Kewites throughout his whole career and that means throughout his life, for he never stopped. He was born in Melbourne, Australia on Christmas day in 1915, hence the name Noel, and worked for the council there in the Fitzroy Gardens. His first step into another country was to Christchurch, New Zealand. In 1938 he was a student at Kew where he gained distinctions (Plant Nomenclature; Elementary and Advanced Systematic Botany and Plant Pathology).

Noel left in March 1939 and enjoyed a brief stay in Munich as an exchange student. The war changed all that and he returned to the Antipodes. The Second World War soon began to make its impact and he was put in charge of army farms in New Guinea. He was discharged from that post due to ill health and took up a job in the Alexandra Gardens, Melbourne. In 1944 he was appointed Senior Lecturer in Horticulture at Lincoln Agricultural College, Canterbury, New Zealand. He was awarded the Cockagne Gold Medal.

In 1948 Noel gained the post of Director of the Botanic Garden at Adelaide, the post he held until 1980. His influence spread from the city limits when he initiated The Mount Loft Botanic Gardens, 12 miles from Adelaide. His family owned a publishing business, Lothian Publishing, so it is not surprising that Noel wrote a lot. For 22 years he was editor of *The South Australian Naturalist* and wrote books and appeared on radio and TV. His name appears throughout *Kew Guild Journals* more than most. In 1953 he wrote to the Editor explaining the basis of his work at Adelaide and three years later news of Percy Trevasakis, Jack Lawson and R. Hardie. In 1971 he led the Organisation of Kewites Overseas. In the same year he sent

pictures of Kewites who attended a meeting of The International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration. Noel was president of the Association.

Here was a man who linked with his contemporaries and also mentored those on the way up. Noel was an early supporter of the Kew Guild Award Scheme, sending Malcolm Leppard £163 towards his Ernest Thornton Smith Travel Fellowship.

In 1961 he was awarded the O.B.E. for his services to Horticulture. In 1975 he spent three weeks in China on a cultural mission and whilst in London was awarded The Veitch Memorial Medal by The Royal Horticultural Society. In 1983 Noel was awarded The George Brown Award an ideal candidate for this recognition of communication in the spirit of the Guild. Noel was President of the Kew Guild in 1987-1988.

Thomas Robert Noel Lothian passed away on September 24th 2004 in Townsville. A memorial service was held at the Mount Loft Botanical Garden at 2pm Friday October the 8th 2004. We send our condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

**THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2004**

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2004 £	Total 2003 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Subscriptions	5,257.88			5,257.88	5,664.58
Donations and Legacies	35.00	1,157.00		1,192.00	2,305.00
Investment Income – COIF	1,308.07	4,441.11		5,749.18	5,818.36
– Interest	1,682.99			1,682.99	1,277.46
Annual Dinner	2,499.30			2,499.30	2,274.00
Sale of “Kew Plantsmen”	188.00			188.00	555.00
Sale of Emblems	0.00			0.00	2.00
AGM Soiree	330.00			330.00	372.50
Events	85.00			85.00	0.00
Raffle	0.00			0.00	1,821.00
	11,386.24	5,598.11	0.00	16,984.35	20,089.90
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Kew Guild Journal	3,158.00			3,158.00	3,350.13
Prizes	495.00	-1.00		494.00	506.00
Awards		4,997.00		4,997.00	4,950.00
Annual Dinner	2,932.43			2,932.43	2,658.29
AGM Soiree	297.13			297.13	213.48
Postage	110.70			110.70	533.63
Events	50.00	0.00		50.00	0.00
Gavel and Box		0.00		0.00	100.00
Regalia Restoration	830.85			830.85	0.00
Other expenditure:					
Insurance	0.00			0.00	39.44
Honorary Officers’ Expenses	0.00			0.00	55.06
Stationery and Printing	513.30			513.30	1,331.98
Website Software	42.30			42.30	238.53
Raffle	0.00			0.00	168.95
Minute taking service	273.73			273.73	200.43
Computer	861.28			861.28	0.00
Sundry	140.43			140.43	236.70
	9,705.15	4,996.00	0.00	14,701.15	14,582.62
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	1,681.09	602.11	0.00	2,283.20	5,507.28
OTHER RECOGNISED LOSSES/GAINS					
Gains/Losses on investments:					
Unrealised	2,192.75	3,018.18	5,128.59	10,339.52	15,077.64
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS ...	3,873.84	3,620.29	5,128.59	12,622.72	20,584.92
Balances brought forward at					
1 January 2004	66,588.85	47,102.72	76,755.99	190,447.56	169,862.64
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT					
31 DECEMBER 2004	70,462.69	50,723.01	81,884.58	203,070.28	190,447.56

**THE KEW GUILD STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2004**

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2004 £	Total 2003 £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Subscriptions	5,257.88			5,257.88	5,664.58
Donations and Legacies	35.00	1,157.00		1,192.00	2,305.00
Investment Income – COIF	1,308.07	4,441.11		5,749.18	5,818.36
– Interest	1,682.99			1,682.99	1,277.46
Annual Dinner	2,499.30			2,499.30	2,274.00
Sale of “Kew Plantsmen”	188.00			188.00	555.00
Sale of Emblems	0.00			0.00	2.00
AGM Soiree	330.00			330.00	372.50
Events	85.00			85.00	0.00
Raffle	0.00			0.00	1,821.00
	11,386.24	5,598.11	0.00	16,984.35	20,089.90
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Direct charitable expenditure:					
Kew Guild Journal	3,158.00			3,158.00	3,350.13
Prizes	495.00	-1.00		494.00	506.00
Awards		4,997.00		4,997.00	4,950.00
Annual Dinner	2,932.43			2,932.43	2,658.29
AGM Soiree	297.13			297.13	213.48
Postage	110.70			110.70	533.63
Events	50.00	0.00		50.00	0.00
Gavel and Box		0.00		0.00	100.00
Regalia Restoration	830.85			830.85	0.00
Other expenditure:					
Insurance	0.00			0.00	39.44
Honorary Officers’ Expenses	0.00			0.00	55.06
Stationery and Printing	513.30			513.30	1,331.98
Website Software	42.30			42.30	238.53
Raffle	0.00			0.00	168.95
Minute taking service	273.73			273.73	200.43
Computer	861.28			861.28	0.00
Sundry	140.43			140.43	236.70
	9,705.15	4,996.00	0.00	14,701.15	14,582.62
NET INCOMING RESOURCES	1,681.09	602.11	0.00	2,283.20	5,507.28
OTHER RECOGNISED LOSSES/GAINS					
Gains/Losses on investments:					
Unrealised	2,192.75	3,018.18	5,128.59	10,339.52	15,077.64
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS ...	3,873.84	3,620.29	5,128.59	12,622.72	20,584.92
Balances brought forward at					
1 January 2004	66,588.85	47,102.72	76,755.99	190,447.56	169,862.64
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT					
31 DECEMBER 2004	70,462.69	50,723.01	81,884.58	203,070.28	190,447.56

**THE KEW GUILD BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2004**

	31 Dec 2004		31 Dec 2003	
	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS				
Investments		165,599.89		150,874.84
 CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors	472.95		323.66	
Charities Deposit Fund	38,200.00		39,500.00	
Cash at Bank	140.52		342.11	
		38,813.47		40,165.77
 LIABILITIES				
Life Subscriptions	35.17		43.05	
Creditors	1,307.91		550.00	
		-1,343.08		-593.05
 NET CURRENT ASSETS		37,470.39		39,572.72
 NET ASSETS		203,070.28		190,447.56
 FUNDS				
General		70,462.69		66,588.85
Restricted		50,723.01		47,102.72
Endowment		81,884.58		76,755.99
		203,070.28		190,447.56

These are summarised accounts extracted from the annual Report and Accounts of the Kew Guild. The Annual Accounts were approved on 28 January 2005 and have been submitted to the Charity Commission.

These summarised accounts may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the Guild's financial affairs. For further information the full Annual Report and Accounts, including the Independent Examiner's Report, should be consulted. Copies of these can be obtained from Jennifer Alsop, The Kew Guild, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AB.

Jennifer J. Alsop
Honorary Treasurer

LIST OF RBG STAFF AND HONORARY PAST PRESIDENTS RESEARCH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD

(as at 25th April, 2005)

Staff:

Alsop, Mrs. Jennifer J.	Edwards, Mr. P. J.	Leese, Mr. Ian
Andrews, Roselle	Everson, Ms Joanne M.	Leon, Christine J.
Atkins, Mrs. Sandy	Fox, Emma C.	Morley, James T
Barnes, David M.	Gasson, Dr. Peter E.	Morris, Mercy
Beentje, Mr. Henk	Godfrey, Mr. Michael C.	Owens, Dr. Simon J.
Bell, Miss. S. D.	Green, Dr. Peter S.	Phillips, Dr. Sylvia M.
Bidgood, Sally	Green, Paul W.C.	Robinson, Mr. Steven P.C.
Bower, Rebecca M.	Groffman, Mr. Harvey	Scott-Brown, Dr. Alison S.
Brummitt, Dr. R. K.	Hardman, Mr. David	Shaw, Mr. Wesley K.
Crane, Professor Sir Peter	Harley, Dr. Raymond M.	Staniforth, Mr. Martin
Cribb, Dr. Phillip J.	Hastings, Laura H.	Taylor, Nigel P.
Cutler, Dr. D. F.	Henchie, Stewart J.	Wendon, Mr. Barry J.
Dalton, Miss Annette	Johns, Professor Bob J.	
Davis, Mr. Steve D.	Johnson, Margaret	

LIST OF RBG STUDENT MEMBERS OF THE KEW GUILD

(as at 25th April, 2005)

Students:

Brunsendorf, Miss Andrea	Heleine, Mr. Paul	Ryan, Mr. Christopher
Cable, Mr. James	Herian, Ms Katrine	Sadler, Mr. Paul J. D.
Cadwallender, Mr. Eddie	Leighton, Mr. Daniel R.	Sherratt, Mr. Glyn
Carlos, Mr. J.	Magdalena-Rodriguez	Snook, Mr. Robert A.
Davies, Miss Victoria	Mazzini, Renata Bachin	Song, Miss Jeeun
Dusoir, Mr. Rory J.	Noack, Irina	Stickler, Tracy H.
Handley, Mr. L. James	Price, Mr. Tom	Tatebayashi, Mr. Masaya
Hart, Miss Lucy	Redstone, Sara J.	Uyama, Ms K.
Haynes, Mr. Daniel P.	Rice, Mr. Simon	Vans Little, Mr. Falkland